

the chronicle



Ticklish one for Maxime to work out
– Pulse starts on page 17



Sahara so good for desert race ace Ian Hall
– see page 8

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Carnival chiefs abandon annual parade

THE traditional parade of floats at Kidderminster Carnival is being abandoned this year and replaced with a civic reception and carnival queen crowning on the steps of the town hall.

Carnival chairman Steve Walker said: "The street parade has struggled for several years to attract many entrants, and if the Guides had not put in three floats last year there wouldn't have been any."

"There has been a combination of factors resulting in the declining interest including costs, insurance and a general lack of enthusiasm. I think sometimes things have just had their day and the time is right to try something new."

"The carnival itself remains extremely popular, attracting around 10,000 people every year, and we want to ensure it remains a sense of occasion for the carnival queen, princess and the two rosebuds."

Showground

The search is on for this year's carnival queen and attendants. After the crowning on carnival day, Saturday, June 18, the queen, princess and rosebuds will travel to Brinton Park in a horse-drawn carriage.

The queen and her entourage meet up with the start of a foot procession at the Park Lane entrance which they will lead into the park and showground.

Mr Walker added that he hoped a variety of groups and individuals would take part in the fancy dress foot procession for which there will be cash prizes for the best dressed in a number of categories.

The three competitions to find this year's queen, aged 14 to 18, princess, aged 10 to 13 and rosebuds, aged six to nine, will be staged at the town hall on April 17. The doors open at 10am with the contests for rosebuds at 10.30am, princess at 12.30pm and queen at 1.30pm. Contestants must live, go to school, college or work in Kidderminster and can enter on the day or in advance by ringing competition organiser Jo-Ann Bowkett on 01562 732158 for an entry form.

HIGH RISE LOW COST

Clever children spell it like it is

YOUNGSTERS from Kidderminster came top of the class to pick up two awards in a school spelling competition.

Franchise Community Primary School entered two teams in the Kidderminster schools tournament, which was held at Holy Trinity International School, in Birmingham Road.

Children had to solve anagrams, answer word-based conundrums and spell difficult words as individuals and as a team.

In the Year 5 competition, Yasmin Stampe, Felix Haynes and Jessica Brett triumphed by 23 points, with their final winning word being psychology.

Welcome

Oliver Barnes, William Hawkins and Emily Flynn-McCabe won a closely-contested Year 6 crown and headteacher Val Weddall-Hall said she was absolutely thrilled with the two results.

"It was a lovely idea to have a Spelling Bee and our hosts at Holy Trinity School made our children very welcome," she said.

"They all had lots of fun. Being able to spell remains a vital skill, even in this age of computer spellchecking."



Back, from left; Jessica Brett, aged 10, Emily Flynn-McCabe, 11 and Yasmin Stampe 10, with William Hawkins, 11, at the front

A STREET in Kidderminster has been named as the cheapest in the West Midlands for buying a home.

Cash buyers and tenants are reaping the benefits as flats in St Cecilia Close, Hoobrook, are selling for under £45,000, according to a new report by housing website Mouseprice.com.

The street has two high-rise blocks which have prime views overlooking Clent Hills and a picturesque railway viaduct.

According to the website the homes are being sold for an average of £43,800, but with mortgage lenders reluctant to provide funds, many property buyers are reaping the benefits as some are valued as low as £30,000.

The properties have also been ranked at number eight in the report for having the highest turnover in the area.

Councillor Helen Dyke, who represents the Aggborough and Spennells ward on Wyre Forest Council, said the flats have a lot of positive points.

"The prices of the flats in the Hoobrook area are mainly residential, but it all depends on what home buyers are looking to invest in."

By Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

"They have been there for quite a number of years and they are owner occupier or rental."

"As with all flats they come with some issues, but they are on a main link road and are quite spacious - it is always beneficial to have a wide range of property and prices in the area."

"The flats can make good first homes and can help first time buyers get a foot on the property ladder."

Fluctuating

A three-bedroom semi in the area, which has a number of good schools nearby, would cost around £150,000.

Estate agent Rob Moore, who manages the Kidderminster branch of Shipways, said the St Cecilia Close properties were great value for money.

"The flats are very spacious and offer a massive investment in terms of square footage. In the past people would have taken out a mortgage on homes like this, but now lenders won't go near them because of their fluctuating value."

"They are good for cash buyers in terms of getting a good return especially as a buy-to-let investment."

Connells estate agents, which is currently advertising two properties for sale, declined to comment.

Back in November 1999, 13 maisonettes and two flats, which stand less than a mile from the town centre, were sold off at an auction.

The sale which was given a £200,000 guide price by auctioneers and was described as "a residential investment chance."



Katie Homan, with Stourport dress shop owner Sarah Bowman, models the purple gown she will wear to the Miss Birmingham contest

Katie sets sights on Second City's title

KIDDERMINSTER teenager Katie Homan has her sights set upon becoming Miss Birmingham, which could launch her towards being on top of the world in the beauty stakes.

Katie, aged 19, a hair stylist and model, has won through to the final of the Second City's title, to be held on April 30 at Birmingham's Burlington Hotel.

If she wins, she will represent the city in the Miss England contest - a stepping stone to the highly-prized world title.

"Pageants like this are about confidence and personality - there are no size restrictions and they don't make people feel under pressure to look like women in a magazine," said Katie.

"They're the best way to get into modelling and do a lot for your confidence. I entered because it will help me to raise money in charity events and give more options for a career."

Katie has been working in her mother Tina's hair salon in Minster Road, Stourport.

Independent

The former Wolverley High School pupil last year raised more than £1,000 for charity, including a sky dive for Kemp Hospice, Kidderminster. She is being loaned an elegant ball gown by A-Z Wedding Services, of Minster Road, Stourport, to wear in the Miss Birmingham final.

Sarah Bowman, aged 27, owner of the shop, said: "Besides being very pretty, with beautiful hair, Katie is very kind, independent and loves to help others. I think she would make the perfect Miss Birmingham, Miss England or even Miss World."

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Boatyard workers hurt in chemical drum leak

THREE workers were taken to hospital with breathing difficulties after a chemical spill at a Kidderminster boat manufacturers.

Crews spent three hours at Sealine International Ltd, in Whitehouse Road, and called in specialist firefighters to help contain Monday's spill.

A woman and two men were treated for

breathing problems by paramedics before being taken to Worcester Royal Hospital for treatment.

A third man was also treated at the scene after problems with breathing but did not require hospital treatment.

Firefighters were originally called to the plant at 10.59am to an automatic fire alarm warning. They found liquid which had spilled from a 45-gallon drum was giving off smoke from a chemical reaction.

Health and safety officers evacuated staff from the factory before fire crews from Kidderminster, Stourport and a specialist chemical hazard unit from Droitwich arrived to make the scene safe.

Crew commander Gareth Clarke said Sealine staff were about to lift the drum up with a forklift truck to carry it out of the factory to disperse the fumes.

Peroxide

"As there was some liquid on the floor inside the building because the lid of the drum had been blown off firefighters wore gas tight suits and breathing apparatus to start the clean-up," he said.

He said two chemicals, believed to be an organic peroxide and a plastic resin substance, styrene monomers, had somehow come to be mixed, causing the reaction.

Firefighters helped erect a cordon around the chemical drum placed outside the building. Staff were allowed back into the building after the incident.

No-one from the company was available to comment at time of going to press.

Family homes and flats for canalside

PLANS for 240 canalside homes on former industrial land have been lodged with Wyre Forest Council.

Bellway Homes Ltd wants to build on the Churchfields North site between Clensmore Street and Red Sands Lane, Kidderminster.

The development would comprise a mix of two, three and four bedroom homes and one and two bedroom apartments.

Around one third of the complex will be low-cost homes.



Tim Wasko, left, Ramada events manager, John Macaskill, hotel manager, Dawn Turner, of Help for Heroes, the Rev Owain Bell, of St Marys and All Saints, Kidderminster, and Katy Barber, conference executive

Cash help on way for heroes

AN HOTEL in Kidderminster which raised £2,500 through a festive fundraiser has donated it to two worthy causes.

The Ramada Hotel, in Habberley Road, Bewdley, split the cash and handed over two cheques to Help for Heroes and to the Rev Owain Bell, of St Marys and All Saints Church, last Friday, March 25.

Manager

Over Christmas, the hotel, which raises money for charity through an annual £5 raffle, decided to treat their guests to something different. For six weeks, staff regu-

larly got diners up on their feet for a sing-along and a game of heads and tails.

Hundreds of people took part and each winner was given a bottle of champagne for their efforts.

Due to the current financial climate staff scrapped the usual £5 raffle tickets and welcomed donations of any value, something Tim Wasko, events manager at The Ramada, said made a lot of difference.

"In this day and age we understand people can't give a lot of money, which is why we stopped selling the £5 tickets.

"It was absolutely brilliant. Lots of people have said what a good idea it was."

Mat'll do nicely for 19 town fighters

VERVE Taekwondo students from Kidderminster feature prominently in this weekend's national championships being held in the town.

A full house is expected at Wyre Forest Glades leisure centre on Sunday.

Nineteen local members of the 60-strong England squad who will take on the Scottish and Welsh in a tri-nations team event.

Fantastic

They are Scott Robb, Aidan Whitehouse, Gregg Ruff, Reece Hughes, Luke Richardson, Courtney Turrall, Jasmine Beardsmore, Chloe Andrews, Jamie Meddows, Lukas Toon, Tommy Booton, Joshua Francis, Megan Rundle, Sophie Booton, Matt Cartwright, Carl Trevitt, Kieran Turrall, Liz Swift and Emma Swift.

Club instructor John Swift said: "It is a fantastic achievement and a tribute to all their hard work."

Tickets for the championships are available from the Wyre Forest Glades box office on 01562 515151.

Valley focus

ANYONE interested in the future of Habberley Valley is invited to a public outdoor meeting next Tuesday, April 5.

Paul Allen, conservation officer at Wyre Forest Council, will outline plans for the nature reserve and invite questions from local people, starting in the valley car park at 6pm.

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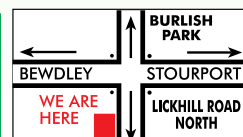
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Delight as work on £5m new school comes to an end

REDEVELOPMENT works at Birchen Coppice Primary School in Kidderminster are finally complete.

Pupils and staff moved into the new school last October, to enable the building contractor Speller Metcalfe to undertake the final phase of works.

This included demolishing the old school, installing a drainage scheme, the creation of a car park, and completing landscaping.

The school, which was designed by Worcestershire County Council property services, has a 26 place nursery.

It also offers wide ranging and community facilities and forms part of the Extended Schools Initiative.

An under-floor heating system

delivered by a biomass boiler, zero-carbon technology, linked with natural ventilation systems, and solar thermal heating technology helps heat and maintains temperature throughout the school.

The majority of classrooms open onto external teaching spaces which are designed to maximise natural daylight and the school's green roof enhances the landscape, as well as delivering a number of additional ecological and environmental benefits.

Opportunity

Headteacher, Mrs Liane Billingsley, said: "We have a fantastic school. The children are so proud of it."

"It looks beautiful but also gives us a great opportunity for enhancing our curriculum. "The whole



Robin Kallowski, from architects WCCPS, head teacher Liane Billingsley, contract manager Matt Brown, Vanessa Anderson and Julie Widdowson, both from WCCPS, with school officers

community, parents, friends and neighbours have commented on how special it is.

"We now need to look after it so that it becomes a centre piece for the area and a valuable asset for future generations."

The work has cost more than £5 million.

The new building has a main reception and community café at the front of a double height, glazed

entrance hall. It incorporates parent and interview rooms, rentable office spaces, a studio for joint provision of larger gatherings and community or school meetings, and all easily accessible from one central area.

Hurdles

The school will also house a permanent base for a community police unit, to assist with commu-

nity links, school support and local residents' inquiries.

Speller Metcalfe contracts manager Matt Brown said: "At the beginning from the new build we had a number of physical hurdles to overcome before work could commence. Maintaining close, on-site working relations has been key in ensuring we enjoyed good communication and positive cross co-operation."

Academy is what we need, says MP



MP Mark Garnier, centre right opens the new Wyre Academy with the centre managing director Derrin Kent. Also pictured are left, Mike Smith from WMSSET and Warwick University and Edwina McQueen, City Guilds

A NEW academy which will specialise in offering IT apprenticeships has officially opened in Bewdley.

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier was on hand to cut the ribbon at the Load Street-based facility, named TDM Wyre Academy.

The academy will work with local employers to offer opportunities for IT apprentices to earn money while they learn, as well as achieving qualifications.

Business and community leaders, including representatives from Warwick University, attended the launch, which took place last Friday (25).

In a speech Mr Garnier pro-

claimed the benefits of apprentice schemes. "This is exactly what we need in the Wyre Forest; local enterprises investing in the local economy, for the benefit of local people," he said.

Motivation

"Apprenticeships are a proven way for individuals to gain the skills they need to succeed and progress in their careers, and for employers to build a workforce with the motivation and expertise they need to gain a competitive edge."

The facility has been open since January and has a number of vacancies with local firms for

young people to complete an IT apprenticeship.

Academy managing director Derrin Kent, said he was excited at the response they had had from companies.

"It has been a tremendous privilege to meet such a talented bunch of young people, who are wanting to get their foot on the employment ladder whilst gaining the skills, experience and qualifications they will need for the future," he said.

Apprentice vacancies are listed online at www.apprentice-ships.org.uk Visit www.wyreacademy.com for more information on the academy, or call 01299 405719.

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Tuesday 5.4.11	OPEN MIC NIGHT with Big Rich and Big Jim
Friday 8.4.11	'HONEY BOY HICKLING' (Rhythm and Blues Band)
Sunday 10.4.11	JAZZ SUNDAY with 'REMY HARRIS TRIO' 1-4 pm
Tuesday 12.4.11	OPEN MIC NIGHT with Big Rich and Simon
Friday 15.4.11	'VOODOO BLUE' (Rock and Soul Band)
Sunday 17.4.11	JAZZ SUNDAY with 'C-JAZZ' 1-4 pm
Tuesday 19.4.11	OPEN MIC NIGHT with Big Rich and Keith
Friday 22.4.11	'DOCTORS ORDERS' (Up-tempo Blues Band)
Sunday 24.4.11	JAZZ SUNDAY with 'STRUMPIT 1 - 4 pm
Tuesday 26.4.11	OPEN MIC NIGHT with Big Rich and Pete Zimmer
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Gardeners' questions bear fruit on BBC

RADIO listeners throughout Britain can hear members of Hurtlebury Gardening Club quizling an expert panel tomorrow (Friday).

Gardeners' Question Time was recorded last Tuesday, March 22, at Cutnall Green Village Hall, for broadcast by BBC Radio 4.

To mark the gardening club's 70th birthday members were told that, after first applying for the show ten years ago, they would be at last best hosting the programme.

The panel for the evening, chaired by Eric Robson, also welcomed Bob Flowerdew.

Arriving hours before the recording, the organic gardener spent time meeting members of

the group and offering them top tips.

Maggie Herbert, organiser of the show, said: "There was a lot of hard work to put in but we all had a great day."

"Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and the BBC crew were so nice they really helped make the whole experience a true success."

Occasion

"We had a full house, we really couldn't have asked for anything better. The community and friends from all over came to support us and help mark our special year."

Ms Herbert added: "I never imagined we would all be quite so involved and although it was a very long day it was definitely

worth all our efforts and the very long wait."

Ten of the 100 questions submitted by the 170 guests were chosen for the recording.

To mark the 70th birthday of the club the BBC also brought along some of the cast and crew from The Archers.

A behind-the-scenes DVD has also been made for club members to remember the occasion.

The self-funded group, formed in 1941 during the Second World War, is now looking to stage a major event later in the year to celebrate the 70th milestone.

Gardeners' Question Time is set to be broadcast tomorrow at 3pm with a repeat on Sunday, April 3, at 2pm.



Popular Bob Flowerdew mingled with members

Year goes by without any thief nabbed

PARISH councillors near Kidderminster have demanded and explanation from local police for failing to catch crooks responsible for any of the burglaries or car crimes in a year.

A Freedom of Information request by a villager in Hagley revealed that 29 burglaries and 30 vehicle crimes were recorded in 2010, but not one was solved.

The crime detection rate for the village had slipped since 2009, when six out of 25 burglaries were solved and one vehicle crime was detected from 31 reported.

Councillor Steve Colella, chairman of the parish council and a Bromsgrove district councillor, said: "We obviously have a problem here."

"We will be asking the police to discuss the matter with us at the next available meeting to find out their views on why none of these crimes was detected."

"We have a good relationship with the policing team in Hagley and we need to get more information about what is behind these figures."

Prevention

He added that Hagley was a low crime area and police were active in encouraging people to take crime prevention measures.

Peter Rowbottom, of Kidderminster Road South, Hagley, made the Freedom of Information request to West Mercia Police, asking for figures for the number of crimes solved.

Overall, 170 crimes were recorded in 2010, of which 29 were solved - and, in the case of burglaries and vehicle crime, none was detected.

A West Mercia Police spokesman said: "Crime across the West Mercia area still remains low."

"Burglaries and vehicle crime are taken very seriously and we do all we can to detect these crimes and bring offenders to justice."

"We need to have sufficient evidence for this to happen, and often this isn't the case."

Magic of magnolias

MAGNOLIAS are now a magnificent sight at an arboretum near Bewdley, and staff are hoping there will be no late frosts to spoil the blooms.

Until Sunday, April 17, Arley Arboretum, overlooking the River Severn, is offering half-price entry after 3pm.

More information about prices and opening times is available by calling the arboretum on 01299 861368.



Bronwen Hall receives her award from the Mayor, Councillor Peter Miller

Bronwen talk of the town

A KIDDERMINSTER woman who leads a talking newspaper and magazine that brings "light to a dark tunnel" for 260 blind and partially-sighted people has won a civic award.

Almost 600 votes were cast by Dudley borough residents for four people and organisations nominated for the Mayor's Award, and the winner was Bronwen Hall, co-ordinator of the Stourbridge-based

Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine.

Mrs Hall co-ordinates the 10 volunteers who work for the talking newspaper, which provides an audio news and information service for people with sight loss.

The newspaper is based at the Pocklington Resource Centre, in Oldswinford. One of its listeners commented: "You bring some light to a dark tunnel."

Blow for disabled shoppers

Hire charges are being introduced for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Owner Westfield says the charges are "essential" to maintain the service, which was previously free. An annual registration fee of £10 is being introduced as well as daily charges introduced for different wheelchairs, scooters and pushchairs. The charge for the hire of pushchairs is £2 per day.

There will also be the same charge for the hire of mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs each time.

Unregistered users will be charged a one-off hire fee of £3 for electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs. Various charges take effect from Monday.

Boat fans can go round and round

A NEW era begins for Worcestershire boaters this summer with the completion of a 35-year project to reopen canals.

The long awaited relaunch of the Mid-Worcestershire Ring, connecting the River Severn at Hawford, south of Kidderminster, to Droitwich and Worcester, takes place in the first weekend in July and there will be a weekend of celebration to mark the occasion.

Design

Droitwich Canals Partnership has timed the launch to coincide with the annual Droitwich Music Festival over the same weekend.

Works to the final phase along the River Salwarpe are progressing well to connect the Droitwich Barge Canal and Droitwich Junction Canals to the Worcester & Birmingham Canal to create a 21-mile circuit through some of the UK's most beautiful countryside. Jason Leach, of British Water-

ways, said: "The project is a culmination of more than 35 years of community-led campaigning to restore these canals and create a legacy which will be enjoyed by all for years to come."

"The canal restoration will create a sustainable legacy, providing an ideal opportunity for communities, individuals and interest groups to play an active role in maintaining and improving the waterway corridor."

Roger Hanbury, chief executive of The Waterways Trust, said: "Members of the public from across the county have got behind this restoration project, giving their time and money to make it a success. It has involved the whole community, from school children creating the design for a new play area, to businesses who helped create a new red bed. Older residents came forward with their canal memories and the public generously supported us."

Mercy on sacked employee who stole

A KIDDERMINSTER man who stole a £5,000 compressor from his employer "in a fit of pique" over wages has been spared jail.

Darren Cook kept the 200 kilogramme piece of equipment after being sacked by RW Services in Streetly, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last week.

The 28-year-old kept it in his vehicle while on holiday and never returned it, said Kanwal Juss prosecuting.

Cook, of Holmwood Avenue, Kidderminster, was dismissed for poor attendance last August 31, and the compressor was missing when the firm's van was recovered the following day, the court was told.

Unpaid

The equipment was found at the home of his brother on October 7 and returned undamaged after Cook told West Mercia Police where it was.

Chris O'Gorman, in mitigation for Cook, said: "He took it in a fit of pique because he felt that he was owed more money than he was ultimately paid."

"There is no evidence that this man made any plans to try to sell it or make any money from it."

Cook admitted theft and was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for 12 months with 100 hours' unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £500 costs.

Recorder Jason Macadam told him: "This was a breach of trust."

"You have been an idiot and this sentence is to remind you not to be one again."

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thechronicle

Recitals to pull out all the stops

THE first of this year's lunchtime organ recitals is set to raise the roof at Kidderminster Town Hall next week.

Organist Timothy Morris is performing at the recital which has been arranged by the Hill Organ Promotion Society.

Mr Morris, chairman of the society, is a well known recitalist and has performed at venues around the country.

He is also an organist and choirmaster at St George's Parish Church, Kidderminster.

The Town Hall organ has been the basis for a continuing programme of organ music

and many other musical events for several years.

The concert starts at 1.10pm on Thursday April 7, and finishes at 2pm. Admission is £6, but members of the society can attend for half price.

Other recitalists to feature at the spring and summer series of lunchtime concerts include Christopher Allsopp, assistant organist of Worcester Cathedral, and David Morgan, organist at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster.



Organist Timothy Morris

Gardeners take over their own allotments

ALLOTMENT tenants in Kidderminster will be taking over the running of their sites from tomorrow, April 1.

Wyre Forest District Council owns and has been managing almost 300 allotment plots of various sizes at nine different sites, but offered the allotment tenants the chance to run the sites following a review of the service.

The council said it would have to increase rents to make the service self-sustaining, and put forward self-management to the tenants as an alternative. In other authorities where these arrangements are in place, rent increases are kept to a minimum.

The allotments in the town will be self-managed through allotment associations. Among their responsibilities will be letting the plots, collecting and setting rents, managing waiting lists and service charges.

The four allotment associations will be West Kidderminster Allotment Society, Aggborough and Foley Park Allotment Association, the Comberton Community Allotments and FHC Community Allotments Associations.

Exercise

Ian Jackson, of Comberton Community Allotments, said: "We welcome the opportunity to run our own sites and can see the advantages for us and the council."

"While we will be doing the day to day running and upkeep, we still have the support of the council for things such as maintaining the main drive-ways, car parks and mature trees."

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest Council's cabinet member for community and partnership services said: "Allotments are a valuable resource for the community and we recognise the health and exercise benefits they provide."

"By working with the allotment holders and changing the way the allotments are run we've been able to produce a more effective and efficient way for the service to be managed resulting in benefits all round. It's the Big Society at work."



Josh Preedy, left, Patrick Wass, James Bird and Molly Burbridge with Councillor Anthony Blagg, environment champion for Worcestershire County Council

Litter busters pick up the plaudits

YOUNG litter busters from Kidderminster have been honoured by an environmental award.

Members from the Aggborough and Spennells Community Connect litter team received the prestigious Tryangle award at a ceremony on March 17.

The award, for Environment and Sustainability, was presented by Councillor Anthony Blagg, environment champion for Worcestershire County Council.

Young people from across the county filled County Hall at Worcester to receive recognition for their contribution to community projects.

Other unsung heroes honoured included Wolverley School Access Lodge. Since September 2010, pupils in Year 10 have been working with the Wyre Forest Council Ranger service on various nature reserves, and have also built a pig pen at the school.

The youngsters are rearing three Gloucester Old Spot pigs to be released into nature reserves to increase bio-diversity.

Aaron Bannister, aged 17, of Kidderminster, was presented with a personal development award.

Fresh look at weekly market day

PROPOSALS for a new approach to a weekly market are being put forward by Bewdley Business Partnership and Bewdley Development Trust.

For the last two years the market has been run in Severnside South on Saturdays by Bewdley Market Company. Following consultation through the partnership, the trust has decided to look again at ways of establishing a quality market.

Peter Miller, managing director of the trust, said: "We are all committed to developing a thriving market."

Showcase

"The weekly Saturday market has not been able to attract and maintain the range of quality stalls needed to put it on the map."

"Specialist markets, and those linked to events in the town, are well supported, so we are looking to build on that."

"We are keen to develop a market in Bewdley which showcases the best of local food and local arts and crafts and would welcome ideas."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the discussions can contact the trust on info@bewdley.org.uk or 01299 405516.

Bewdley Development Trust granted permission for a market in 2009.

Chatroom led to arrest of 1980s sex attack man

A FORMER Wyre Forest shopkeeper who carried out a sex attack about 30 years ago was charged after chat emerged on the internet.

Paul Godfrey was running a newsagent's and was in his 20s when he assaulted a teenage girl, Worcester Crown Court heard last week.

Godfrey, aged 56, of Thirlmere Road, Burlish Park, Stourport, admitted indecent assault and was given a three-year community order. Judge Christopher Plunkett said it was "a deeply unpleasant offence by an adult on a child."

The judge noted that Godfrey was of previous good character and said he had to bear in mind the passage of time.

In the 1970s and 1980s sentences for sex attacks were more lenient. Today, they would be measured in years, he said.

Godfrey must sign the sex offenders' register for five years, take part in a sex offenders' group work programme, and is banned from contact with people under the age of 18.

Supported

Gerry Bermingham, prosecuting, said the one-off offence came "out of the blue".

He said comments were made on the internet before police questioned Godfrey. He made a full admission, but offered no explanation.

Abigail Nixon, defending, told Judge Plunkett at last week's hearing that Godfrey's wife still supported him despite being made aware of his past.

He had been unemployed since the late 1990s and suffered from depression and panic attacks.

Depressed ex-cop can sue bosses

A POLICEMAN who resigned from the West Mercia force after suffering from depression and stress has been told he can go ahead with a bid for compensation.

John Benfield, of Kidderminster Road, Stourport, who now has another job, told Birmingham Employment Tribunal he quit because the force failed to make adjustments to counter his medical condition.

He applied for permission to go ahead with his compensation claim for disability discrimination at a full tribunal.

Natalie Dent, for West Mercia Police, opposed the application because, she said, the claim had been lodged past the three-month deadline.

Prepared

Mr Benfield said he was late registering his claim because of his condition. He said he suffered from panic, memory loss, depression and stress.

He was previously based at Worcester but transferred to Malvern following a dispute. He was then moved back to Worcester which intensified his medical condition, he said.

Tribunal judge Peter Rose QC told Mr Benfield that he was prepared to extend the claim time, although the application was late.

Chipping in for church

A WYRE Forest church is hosting a quiz and chip supper next week as part of their fundraising for the renovation of the building.

The event in honour of All Saints' Church, Bewdley, will take place on Saturday, April 9, at Wribbenhall community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road.

All proceeds go towards the church repair fund. Tickets are £7.50, which includes the fish and chip supper, and are available from Bewdley Blooms, in Load Street, or by calling Neil or Linda Cockesedge on 01299 402682.

The event begins at 7.30pm

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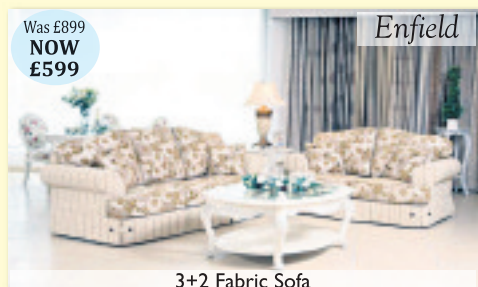
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Dancer's mum makes a right move for £500

AN AWARD-winning Kidderminster dance studio is banking on more success after a £500 grant from Lloyds TSB.

The cash will fund performing arts opportunities for children and young people who study with Splinters.

It was awarded to the bank's Kidderminster branch manager Bev Coussens, whose son Jordan is a senior dancer, in recognition of her voluntary work with the studio.

The Lloyds Banking Group Foundation supports branch managers who help out in their communities.

Lucia Sabel, chairman of Lime-light, a PTA charity which provides funding for Splinters, said: "This grant will be very useful in supporting performing arts opportunities for our dancers and we are all extremely grateful to Bev and Lloyds TSB."

Care home venture for tycoon Driscoll



Businessman Jim Driscoll

SHOE PEOPLE cartoon creator Jim Driscoll is investing up to £12million in two care home projects that will create almost 200 jobs in the Wyre Forest district and Stourbridge.

The business tycoon's company has taken over the Park Attwood Clinic in Trimpley, near Bewdley, which is due to open as a new brain injury rehabilitation centre in early summer.

The clinic will employ about 50 people, it is thought.

And Mr Driscoll is about to apply

to Dudley Council for planning permission to develop the 1.5 acre former Labour Club and YWCA site in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, as an "iconic" three-storey U-shaped building to include a 62-bedroomed care home and 38 apartments.

Mr Driscoll has now spent a total of £2 million on purchasing the clinic, set in 7.5 acres of countryside, and refurbishing it to become a 15-bed brain injury rehabilitation unit and day centre.

Fantastic

The clinic is now applying for Care Quality Commission registration as a "care home with nursing" and will soon be advertising for up to 50 full and part-time staff, including

nurses, caring support assistants, administrators, cooks, cleaners and maintenance workers.

It is expected to open in early summer.

The Park Attwood Clinic used to provide homeopathic therapy, operating under the principles of the educationalist and philosopher Rudolf Steiner, but closed in July 2010.

The Stourbridge scheme – expected to open next year – would create jobs for 100 to 140 people, full and part time.

Mr Driscoll, aged 63, of Chaddesley Corbett, near Kidderminster, said: "The Stourbridge care centre will look like a block in the south of France, with balconies, and planners have told us that it will be an iconic building.

"There will be a 62-bed care home and 38 two-bedroom apartments where people can live and call on care when needed, 24 hours a day.

"People living there would be able to have family to stay with them and it will be fantastic because it will be close to all the amenities of the town centre."

Demolished

The former Labour Club and YWCA in Hagley Road have already been demolished to make way for the development.

Mr Driscoll, who sold the Shoe People brand in 1996, has set up Park Attwood Ltd to run the new care businesses at Trimpley and Stourbridge, and Christopher Charles Properties as a development company.

School's £1,000 a Relief

PUPILS and staff at Wolverley CE Secondary School have excelled themselves by raising more than £1,000 for Comic Relief.

Activities included a non-uniform day, an outdoor gig by music students, a BBQ meal deal.

Pupils also wrote and sold their own joke book and staff competed with them to see who could row the furthest on a rowing machine.

The student total was 47,54km and the staff total was 39.12km!

Suzie Bourne, assistant headteacher and leader of the school/student council, said, "I am extremely proud of all the effort and hard work."

An additional £340 will be sent to Wolverley's link school in Tanzania, east Africa.



Ilan Hall trains for the Marathon des Sables in the sun-baked mountains of southern Spain

Ilan's banking on Sahara desert marathon cash

KIDDERMINSTER runner Ilan Hall was due to set off today (Thursday) for the gruelling Marathon des Sables.

The 48-year-old director of banking at Birmingham-based Wesleyan Assurance Society and cross country captain at Kidderminster's Amazing Feet Running Club is taking part in the so-called Toughest Foot Race in the World after raising £10,000 in sponsorship.

His six day, 150-mile run across the Sahara desert is to raise money for Facing Africa, which aims to treat and raise awareness of Noma, a gangrenous infection which kills tens of thousands of children every year and leaves survivors with facial disfigurement.

In temperatures up to 48°C, competitors have to carry a rucksack containing, medical supplies, a sleeping bag and all their food.

Ilan said: "Having completed many marathons in the UK previously, the

Marathon des Sables seemed the ideal way to challenge myself in an extreme competition while raising money for charity.

"I'm feeling confident about completing the event, and with my previous running experience the distance and even the weight of carrying the rucksack isn't too daunting. The unknown factor is the temperature, which will be much hotter than I'm used to."

Generous

He reached his £10,000 fundraising target with the help of a £5,000 donation from Wesleyan Assurance Society.

Ilan added: "The £10,000 I have raised will pay for 10 facial reconstruction operations for Noma sufferers, and I'm extremely grateful to my friends and colleagues for their donations as well as to Wesleyan Assurance Society for its generous donation of £5,000."

Ilan's training included runs in the mountains of southern Spain.

Workers too late to claim payouts

ABOUT 180 workers who lost their jobs after closure of a Kidderminster firm have missed out on thousands in compensation.

Another 120 employees of Ceramasp Ltd of Zortech Avenue, were awarded about £3,600 each after accusing the firm of failing to consult the workforce properly about closure.

The company is now in liquidation.

Remaining workers were told they will not be receiving similar payouts because their claims were submitted too late to be considered.

At a Birmingham Employment Tribunal hearing last week Kevin McGreevy, of Summer Hill, and Alf Hawkins, of

Trainers led police to burglar

A TEENAGER who raided a Kidderminster house seeking cash to settle a drug debt took off his trainers as he crept upstairs and confronted a woman in her bedroom.

When she screamed, Ashley Shuck fled empty-handed, said Mr Peter Parson, prosecuting at Worcester Crown Court. He was traced a few days later through the shoes he left behind.

Shuck, aged 18, of Washington Street, Worcester, admitted burglary in Griffin Avenue, Kidderminster.

He was sentenced to two and a half years detention in a young offenders' institution, less the 123 days he has spent in custody on remand.

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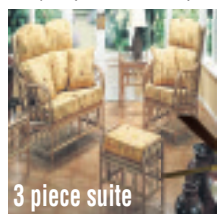
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Job boost as toy retailer moves in

UP TO 60 full-time and temporary jobs are to be created when a toy superstore opens in Kidderminster.

Ireland's Smyths Toys Ltd plans to move into a unit, which will be left vacant by PC World, on the Crossley Retail Park.

PC World will be merging with the Curry's store on the site in Carpet Trades Way under plans to create a new megastore. The Smyths Toys store will be one of four in the West Midlands as the firm already has branches in Walsall, Birmingham and Telford.

Wyre Forest Council has approved plans for the store, which would create 30 full-time jobs and up to 30 temporary positions during busy periods.

Adam Coombs, from agents Quod, said in a report: "The company strives to offer the best range of children's entertainment products whilst providing consumers with competitive prices."

Expand

Wyre Forest planning officer Paul Round said: "There is limited toy retailing in Kidderminster, especially with the demise of Woolworths."

A Smyths Toys spokesman said an opening date for the new store had yet to be fixed.

PC World spokeswoman Anina Castle said plans to expand Curry's to create a combined store were being finalised.

All the existing staff at PC World would move across to the new store, she said.

Smyths Toys, which has 47 stores throughout the UK and Ireland selling a range of toys, bikes and video games, is the latest retailer to announce plans for a new store in Kidderminster.

Supermarket giant Asda has revealed plans to build a new shop, bringing a derelict carpet factory back to life, creating 400 jobs.

It is part of a redevelopment of industrial land on the Churchfields site off St Mary's Ringway, featuring a store, petrol station, offices and homes.

A new link road from Churchfields to the ringway roundabout is also proposed, to prevent the area being clogged by traffic.



Stourport's Fiona Walker, the woman in the famous Athena poster, at Christie's with the legendary calendar photo

Tennis girl's 1976 shot

A WYRE Forest woman who became a nationwide heart-throb 35 years ago when she posed as a tennis player cheekily hitching up her skirt has opened an art exhibition.

Fiona Walker was at Christie's last week to launch Court on Canvas – an exhibition exploring tennis as a subject in art which runs from May 27 to September 18 at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

The 1976 photograph by the

late Martin Elliott featured his then girlfriend, 18-year-old student, Fiona Butler, from Stourbridge. She could not actually play tennis and borrowed all the gear.

Elliott took the picture at Edgbaston Tennis Club, Birmingham, and it was licensed to Athena for a calendar for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Fiona Butler went on to marry multi-millionaire Ian Walker, had three children, and now lives near Stourport.

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107.2 Wyre

TOP TEN PLAYLIST OF WEEK



Bigger - Cee-Lo

Louder Parade

Eyes Wide Shut JLS

Something in the Water Brooke Taylor

Someone Like Me Adele

Yeah Right Dionne Broomfield

Bigger City Cee-Lo Green

Roll Away Your Stone Mumford & Sons

Born This Way Lady Ga-Ga

Price Tag Jessie J

The Last Dance Clare Maguire

Get out there, do some good and have fun too!

AT THE Wyre, we're all about Community spirit! It's true, we are ... you should see Phil Ray walking round with his "I Heart NW" T-Shirt on in the sunshine!

You may or may not be aware that we've got a huge amount of community events listed on our website at www.boro.com and we encourage all our listeners to get out there and see some of the amazing work that people across north Worcestershire do for charity, for profit, or just for fun!

Here's a few of them:
Kidderminster's Carnival Queen for 2011 will be crowned on Sunday, April 17.

The event starts at 10am at Kidderminster Town Hall, with three categories available. Entries are being sought for rosebuds aged six to nine, princesses aged 10-13 and the carnival queen aged between 14 and 18.

For entry details, call Steven Walker on 07899 843228.

The Kickbox For Kiwis Sparathon will be held at The Lighthouse Kickboxing

School in Kidderminster on Monday, April 9.

Adults and children are getting involved to spar for three hours, raising money for the New Zealand Red Cross to help their work rebuilding the city of Christchurch after the February earthquake.

Claire Raybould has more details on 01299 879926.

Altered Images in Bromsgrove has organised a 20-mile bike-ride and a 10 kilometre race to raise much-needed money in aid of Help For Heroes.

If you fancy getting involved or you'd like more information, give them a call on 01527 874395.

If you have a community or charity event coming up you can drop us a line with all the details and we'll let the rest of our beautiful county of Worcestershire know all about it.

Email dj@thewyre.com and tell me what you've got going on.

Anyway, I have to shoot off - Phil Ray's just spilled ice cream down his 'I Heart NW' shirt ... mucky pup!

DANI WOZENCROFT FROM WYRE NEWS WITH THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving . . .

Kidderminster

A442 Bridgnorth Road, temporary traffic lights south of Parkatt Meadows Farm to April 1.

Hurcott Road, temporary traffic lights opposite number 152 to April 1.

Lisle Avenue, temporary traffic lights until May 13.

Bewdley

B4194 Red Hill, temporary traffic lights near Red Hill Farm to April 2.

B4190 Cleobury Road, temporary traffic lights near Hopley

Caravan Park until April 8.

Stourport

A451 Minster Road, temporary traffic lights at Worcester Street and Vale Road junction until April 1

Blakedown

A456 Birmingham Road, near-side lane closed from Hagley direction until April 14.

A456 Birmingham Road, temporary traffic lights at Harborough Hall until April 29.

Hartlebury

A449 Waresley to Torton road,

40mph limit and contraflow in place by Old Worcester Road until April 1.

Ombersley

A449 Main Road, 40mph limit and contraflow between Sinton Lane and Haye Lane until April 3.

Wolverley

B4189 Wolverley Road, temporary traffic lights near Lea Lane junction, April 3.

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads on 107.2 The Wyre. You can be a Jambuster, call 0333 123 1072.



DJs and aerosol art for children

YOUNGSTERS from a Kidderminster support group got arty at a creative educational workshop.

Kidderminster Targeted Youth Support joined more than 40 children from across the West Midlands for the art and design event, hosted by Hedz.

The workshop which was held at Zellig, in Birmingham, the city's newest creative hub for arts and culture, provided an array of tutorials teaching creative drawing, aerosol art and DJ-ing, by three times workshop champion, DJ Switch.

There were also presentations from Hedz founders Stuart Styles and Miles Hesketh and demonstrations from the region's most creative individuals, including voiceover artist Marc Silk and Popping Colour artist, Ian Cook, who was recently shown on ITV's Daybreak.

Creation

Over the past ten years, Hedz have become leaders of youth engagement workshops for art and creation in education across the country.

The workshops encourage children to work together, allowing them to expand on their social skills, whilst giving them the opportunity to gain new abilities in areas that they would not necessarily be exposed to in a classroom setting.

The creative day on Monday, March 21, also allowed the children to access industry professionals who understand the benefits of working with young people.

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Prices are per person unless otherwise stated and travel insurance is not included in the price. Coach pick-up points offered (excluding air, Eurostar breaks plus certain cruises) are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Call (01902) 319999 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm) or email starextra@expressandstar.co.uk (please include your name and address). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms/conditions. Dates subject to availability.

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Ladies day at Ascot

Two days departing June 15



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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Mad Hatter's Tea Party on the Thames

Two days departing May 28



PRICE FROM £129

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Cruise on the Thames from Oxford with a tea party on board
- Free time in Oxford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 18 and Sept 17



PRICE FROM £125

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, Gardens and Maze
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Able-bodied Jonathan Whitehouse, in chef's uniform, unloads a car

Benefit claim cooked up by chef at hotel

A WYRE Forest cook who claimed he could not walk without the aid of a stick has been exposed as a benefits cheat after being caught working at a top countryside hotel.

Scrounger Jonathan Whitehouse fraudulently claimed more than £10,000 while working full time in the kitchen at the four-star Menzies Stourport Manor hotel, in Hartlebury Road, Stourport.

He worked 40-hours a week as a chef helping provide food for the 80-seater brasserie restaurant while claiming disability and living allowance between 2002 and 2008, a court heard.

The Department for Work and Pensions launched an investigation following a tip-off and caught Whitehouse in the act arriving and leaving for work each day and walking perfectly unaided.

He was sentenced to 150 hours community service at Hereford Crown Court after pleading guilty to causing or allowing to fail to notify change of circumstances effecting entitlement to benefits or another payment.

Judge Toby Hooper told Whitehouse: "How you frittered away £10,000 is for you to ponder, but this sentence will impose a significant restriction on your liberties."

The 34-year-old, from Droitwich, was sentenced to a 12-month community order as well as 150 hours unpaid work, and ordered to pay £150 costs.

Insisting

Judge Hooper added: "You will return to being a useful tax paying member of the community, and you clearly regret what you have done. But these trials cost the court money. This amount is no where near the full cost, but will go some way to clawing back whatever we can."

The judge rejected a request for Whitehouse to pay it back at a rate of just £20 per month, insisting that he could afford to pay it back at £25 a month.

Minister for Welfare Reform, Lord Freud, said after the hearing: "It's cases like these that show us why welfare reform is needed."

"We have a duty to the taxpayer and our customers to make sure that these vital benefits only go to those who need them. Benefit fraud takes money away from the most vulnerable."



Whitehouse strolls in for a shift at the Stourport Manor Hotel (top)

Verdict is a gallant near-miss

PUPILS from Kidderminster were narrow runners-up in the Worcestershire heat of the 2011 national Schools Mock Trial.

The trial was staged on March 19 at Worcester Magistrates Court and King Charles I School came second, just behind Pershore High School.

In a record entry, teams from 15 schools across the county competed in a specially written criminal case of domestic violence.

Year 8 and Year 9 students took the parts of magistrates, prosecution and defence, defendant, witnesses and court officials, and their performances were judged by magistrates and legal professionals.

Prizes were presented to the winners and runners-up at Worcester Crown Court by Judge Alistair McCreath.

Boss's driving ban plea fails

A BUSINESSMAN who sold his house in Wolverley, near Kidderminster, to help boost family finances as his firm faltered, has been banned from the roads.

Jonathan Westwood lost an appeal against a six-month disqualification for driving while using a mobile phone, and must pay £200 towards the costs of the hearing.

Hardship

A West Mercia Police patrol followed him at Mustow Green, near Kidderminster, after spotting him taking a call.

The call was from his daughter, whom he was due to pick up at a railway station, said David Iles, prosecuting, at Worcester Crown Court. Westwood, aged 56,

now of Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior, near Bromsgrove, was banned under the totting-up procedure because he already had nine points on his licence.

He pleaded exceptional hardship, saying that he drove 30,000 miles a year as a director of a retail property company.

Westwood claimed his business would probably collapse unless he was allowed to keep his driving licence. Shawn Williams, defending, said Westwood had had a disastrous day when before he was stopped by the officers in July 2010. Rejecting the appeal, Judge Christopher Plunkett said the case was not one of exceptional hardship.

Westwood was fined £55 and ordered to pay £160 costs.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Holistic Feel Good Treatments for Local Cancer Patients

Kevin Barker owner of Simply Charming is a recovering cancer patient on a mission to bring a new type of treatment to sufferers in the Wyre Forest area. Diagnosed himself in 2009 with Bowel cancer he decided once his own treatment was complete he didn't want to return to his senior management role but, wanted to support others in a similar situation. "The treatment I received on the NHS was fantastic, and I probably wouldn't be here without it but, it was all very clinical and about the disease" he explains "none of the procedures or pills and therapy tackled my emotional wellbeing and I think it's something I really would have benefited from" Kevin turned to Reiki and found it very helpful, it is a channeling of natural energies throughout the body that promotes a feeling of health.

Although a holistic approach isn't recommended by the NHS as a way to treat cancer alone, it can be complimentary and help a patient feel strong and well enough to cope with what is often unpleasant procedures.

Kevin started on his own promoting the idea at specialist events, shows and then progressed to a market stall, then opened the shop as a base where he can offer the services from which include Reiki, Reflexology, Massage and much more. The professionals working along side him are all offering their time at subsidised rates. The retail side of the business offers incense and burners, development books and candles along with a beautiful range of silver jewellery that make ideal gifts. The hope is that sales from the shop will help to subsidise the cost of treatments for patients so their individual circumstances don't mean they miss out. He also hopes the shop can be a base for sufferers to meet people in a similar situation and find support.

For any further information, or if you can help Kevin and his mission please call 01562 752522 and visit www.simplycharming925.co.uk



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thechronicle

COMPETITION



James Martin will be at the show to rustle up some culinary masterpieces

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets answer the following question.

Who is the returning presenter of Gardeners' World?

Send your entries to Food/Garden Show Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 7.

Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. All tickets are general admission excluding Saturday, June 18. Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Ticket terms and conditions apply.

Tasty offer to get your teeth into

BBC Gardeners' World Live and the BBC Good Food Show Summer are looking set to be one of the best days out for this summer!

The shows will be playing host to some of the country's leading experts including Monty Don, the returning presenter of Gardeners' World, Alan Titchmarsh, James Martin, Rachel Allen, John Torode, Gregg Wallace and many more!

And the organisers have teamed up with the Chronicles to offer 14 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the two shows.

Highlights

Grow your way to five-a-day!

Nothing tastes as good as fruit and veg picked fresh from your garden, so whether you've got an allotment or just a window box BBC Gardener's World Live is the place to learn directly from some of the country's most knowledgeable gardeners. Top experts from the BBC series will be on hand to offer advice and you can buy all the seeds, plants and produce you need, to start your own kitchen garden too.

Fantastic shopping

Whether you want a traditional picnic hamper or state-of-the-art kitchen gadgets, you'll find them at the Show. There's an unrivalled selection of high quality food and drink to choose from and exclusive Show bargains make perfect presents. Stock up for birthday barbecue or weekend picnics.

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Good Food Show Summer
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15-19 June 2011



Gardeners' World Live
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Homes and Garden

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Spring has sprung and it's time to tackle those jobs around the house and garden we put to one side at the end of last year. Fear not! help is at hand in the form of local DIY superstore Wigleys. A family business first started 40 years ago by Ken Wigley it is still in family with Ken's daughter Jane, and grandson James now running it. The team pride themselves on offering a wide range of products alongside excellent customer service.

The store has all the usual DIY related stock including paint, tools, fixings, plumbing materials and timber as well as a huge range of gardening products. The housewares section is growing and they even offer a pet section.

"We have undergone a period of change and improvement over recent months and are very happy with how the shop has evolved" says James. "There's lots of positive feedback from our customers too which is always a good sign! The new ranges we introduced are doing really well and the layout is much more customer friendly."

Jane adds "We're still very proud of our excellent customer service – the knowledgeable staff take the time to offer advice that will make the job at home seem less daunting! Put us to the test and find out why we are better than many of our big named competitors!"



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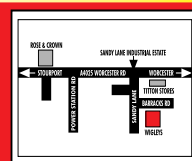
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Driver faces charge over injured man

A MAN has been charged with dangerous driving after a pedestrian was left with serious injuries in Kidderminster.

He was released on police bail to return to Kidderminster police station next Friday, April 8.

West Mercia Police have appealed for witnesses of the collision between a pedestrian and a silver Mercedes saloon at around 7.45pm on Friday, March 18, in Comberton Hill, Kidderminster.

The vehicle left the scene without stopping, officers said.

Surgery

The pedestrian, a 35-year-old man, sustained a fractured leg and a head wound. His injuries were described as serious but not life threatening and he was admitted to Worcestershire Royal Hospital to await surgery.

Pc Jon Davies said: "There were at least 20 pedestrians in the street at the time as a train had just arrived at Kidderminster station."

"We are appealing for any witnesses who have not provided statements to police to contact us on 0300 333 3000 quoting incident 708-s-180311."

Carpet museum invites its Friends

FRIENDS of the Carpet Museum Trust are being given an exclusive tour of the new museum building before its transformation.

Members are invited to walk around the premises which have recently had a lease agreed by Morrisons.

On Thursday, April 7, and Saturday, April 9, the Stour Vale Mill opens for one-hour tours at 10.30am and noon before work starts on converting the interior ready for the museum's grand opening next year.

Tours start at the entrance, through the weaving shed, which stands at the access point to the Morrisons store, directly from Green Street. For details, call Jean Talbot on 01299 832797, or email jean@talbotkidderdemon.co.uk.

Neighbours unite for crime watch project

A NEW Neighbourhood Watch group has been set up in Offmore, Kidderminster.

The Hardy Avenue group is the first to have the new NHW signs which are now yellow instead of orange and are also bigger than before, and more noticeable to passers-by.

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership involving the police and residents who join forces to make communities safer. A volunteer co-ordinator supervises the scheme and receives information and messages from the police, and some co-ordinators have marker kits, alarms and other security items.

Information is fed through to members, who are encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious incidents to the police.

Interested

Members receive Neighbourhood Watch window stickers and crime prevention information. Street signs can also be obtained, which reduces crime by deterring burglars and other offenders.

North Worcestershire Neighbourhood Watch administrator Mel Clarke said: "It is a scheme that helps residents look after their homes, cars and neighbourhoods by giving them information to help secure their properties when they are away, or just on a general day to day basis."

"We are always happy to help residents set up new Neighbourhood Watch schemes and would encourage anyone interested to get in touch to find out more."

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch visit the West Mercia Police website at www.westmercia.police.uk and click on the Get Involved tab.

Alternatively, contact Mel direct on 01527 586253 or by emailing melvyn.clarke@westmercia.pnn.police.uk.



Brian Evans, a resident of Hardy Avenue, Offmore, with NHW administrator Mel Clarke and one of the new signs

Carnival's four ways of helping

FOUR good causes are to benefit from this year's Kidderminster Carnival, helping a broad spectrum of people in need.

Proceeds raised from the event on Saturday, June 18, plus the annual duck race and collection in May, will be divided between the Odell Centre, Noah's Ark and the Kidderminster Ex-Service Association.

Carnival chairman Steve Walker said: "We hope that, with the generosity of Kidderminster people, we can really make a difference."

The Odell Centre, in Plimsoll Street, provides placements for adults with learning disabilities.

Updating

Manager Margaret Brokowski said she was "absolutely delighted" that the centre had been chosen.

She said the donation would help provide activities for those who attend the centre and go towards updating the interior, which needs painting, new furniture and storage.

Georgina Neep, fundraiser for Noah's Ark, which provides bereavement services for children and young people, said: "We need to raise £500,000 a year to provide support to more than 800 bereaved children and young people, and we receive no Government funding."

A donation will also be made to the Severn Area Rescue Association which assists with the duck race on the River Stour on May 28.

To book a stall at the carnival on Brinton Park call organiser Colin Hill on 01562 751634.

Quick ways to rot garden compost

BEWDLEY and District Horticultural Society hosts a talk next week on "How to make compost that will be ready to use in a month".

The evening at Wribbenhall Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, features guest speaker Mick Poultney and begins at 7.45pm on Wednesday, April 6.



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the pulse



TV listings start
- page 20

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE
ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING**



Theatre and show round-up - page 19



Reviews and gigs - page 24



What a farce! Above Sophie Harrison, as Victoire, and Rob Broadhurst, as Maxime, and, right, Richard Taylor, as Boniface, and Louise Fulwell, as Marcelle

Plenty of laughs at Hotel Paradiso

OH LA LA! Lovers of hilarious plots and mistaken identities are in for a real treat this April.

The Nonentities are working on a production at the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, which guaran-

tees fun, laughter and frolics. Hotel Paradiso is a French farce at its high-speed best by Georges Feydeau, the master of the genre, who created situations that generate plenty of mirth, with absurd plots and sparkling dialogue which are still popular

today. Mistaken identities, disguises, flirtatious maids, wronged wives and would-be adulterous husbands in a frantic and hilarious mix!

Will Boniface manage to fulfil his assignation with the beautiful Marcelle? Will his wife find out?

Does the hotel really have ghosts, or is it the drains? Will it rain?

With an elaborate set and lots of running up and down stairs, this is an adventurous play that should certainly offer the perfect antidote to the credit squeeze.

Several recent shows at The Rose have sold out quite quickly, so early booking is advised.

Tickets are on sale now and the show runs for six days from April 16. Curtain up is 7.30 pm and the box office is open on www.rose-theatre.co.uk or 01562 743745.



Dwindling dame and a bosom pair

DOUGLAS Mounce, who celebrates 40 years as a professional actor this year, appears at Worcester's Swan Theatre on Thursday in the dark comedy Twinkle Little Star.

Harold Thropp is an old-school pantomime dame, slowly watching his career dwindle as the era of the grande dame has receded, and the cult of TV celebrity has risen.

He reflects both on his prospects in a world where his kind of entertainment no

longer draws a crowd, and on his tempestuous personal life.

He is one of the country's leading pantomime dames and over the past 26 years he has appeared at most major theatres in the country.

This Saturday, April 2, the bosom buddies Bev Killick and Emma Powell will be exposing their wobbly bits to close scrutiny in Busting Out! at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The Aussie pair will be repeating their

audacious hit show, an uplifting celebration of bouncy songs, wobbly jokes and practical demonstrations for your drooping assets at the Swan on Wednesday, April 20.

The Wyre Forest Young Voices Choral is performing Pergolesi's masterpiece Stabat Mater by candlelight at St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster, on Sunday, April 10 at 8.30pm.

Admission is free, but a collection will be taken to defray costs.



Bev Killick and Emma Powell will be Busting Out!

Kidderminster
Box Office: 01562 747773
Reel Cinema, Green Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 1AF
Information & Online Bookings at: www.reelcinemas.co.uk

Shoot Sheet 1st April - 7th April

Sucker Punch (12A) FLS Fri - Mon - Thu Set & Sun 12:30 15:30 18:20 20:50	Limitless (15) FLS Daily 18:00 20:30
Turtle's Tale 3D (U) FLS Fri, Mon - Thur Set & Sun 16:05 14:10	Mars Needs Moms 3D (PG) FLS Sat & Sun 16:00
How (U) FLS Fri - Mon - Thur Set & Sun 16:00 18:05 20:20 Sat & Sun 12:30 13:45 16:50 18:10 20:20	Rango (PG) Sat & Sun 11:45 (Kids Club)
Faster (15) FLS Daily 15:55	Gnomeo & Juliet (U) Sat & Sun 11:20 (Kids Club)
The Eagle (12A) FLS Fri & Mon - Thurs Set & Sun 13:30 18:05 20:40 18:05 20:40	Tangled (U) Sat & Sun 11:15 (Kids Club)

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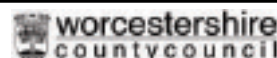
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Stoney Lane, Kidderminster, DY10 2LX Rainbow Centre Spring Timetable

RAINBOW AT ST MARYS, Stoney Lane DY10 2LX

MONDAY	Church House Nursery 7.30 am-5.30 pm Stay, Weigh and Play (0-5 years) 9.30 am-11.00 am Health Visitor attends 1st and 3rd Monday of the month Economic Advisor 9.30 am-10.45 am Young Parents Group (Drop In) 7th March 11.30 am-12.45 pm (see advert in Newsletter)
TUESDAY	Church House Nursery 7.30 am-5.30 pm Baby Group, Non Walkers 9.30 am-11.30 am Counselling Sessions Marilyn 9.00 am-1.00 pm Please check with Children's Centre for specific dates and to book
WEDNESDAY	Church House Nursery 7.30 am-5.30 pm St Mary's School Family Learning Group 9.00 am-12.00 noon
THURSDAY	Church House Nursery 7.30 am-5.30 pm Childminder Drop In 3rd Thursday of the month 9.30 am-11.00 am Stay and Play Tremendous Toddlers (1-4 years) 1.00 pm-2.30 pm Jobcentre Plus Advisor 2nd Thursday of the month 1.00 pm-2.30 pm
FRIDAY	Church House Nursery 7.30 am-5.30 pm Talking Walk In 4th Friday of the month 9.00 am-1.00 pm Healthy Tots and Lunch Term time 11.45 am-1.15 pm

GLADES LEISURE CENTRE, Bromsgrove Street DY10 2PP

TUESDAY	Tots Can Swim (0-3 years) Water Babies 10.45 am-11.30 am
THURSDAY	Tots Can Swim (3-4 years) Little Dolphins 1.30 pm-2.00 pm

RAINBOW AT RADORD AVENUE, DY10 2PU

MONDAY	Stay and Play (0-5 years) 1.00 pm-2.30 pm (Outing on 14th March) One World Community Event for Muslim parents and their children under 5, Mother and Child 10.30 am-12.30 pm then Lunch, Father and Child 1.30 pm-2.30 pm
WEDNESDAY	Stay and Play (0-5 years) 9.30 am-11.00 am
SATURDAY	Dad's Group (0-5 years) The 1st Saturday of the month 10.00 am-12.00 noon Please see advert in newsletter for details and the venue

RAINBOW AT ST OSWALDS, Sion Avenue DY10 2LY

TUESDAY	Baby Group under 1's and siblings 1.00 pm-2.30 pm Economic Advisor 2nd Tuesday of every month 9.15 am-11.15 am
THURSDAY	Health Centre Physiotherapy Group 9.00 am-12.30 pm
FRIDAY	Stay and Messy Play (0-5 years) 9.15 am-11.15 am

What the colours mean

BROWN - First Class Nursery BLUE - Drop In Groups ORANGE - One off/special events

GREEN - Pre-book courses/training/sessions PURPLE - Referral only Session

**For more information telephone
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Stay and Play

Tuesday 19th April
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KEY: Green Groups Just Turn Up Blue Groups Booked Courses Purple Groups Clinics Orange Outside Groups

Please note that some classes must be pre booked - please call for information

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Talking Walk In 9-12pm 2nd Monday of month Multi-Purpose Room	Counselling Advice Centre (From Chobani Clinic) 9.30-12pm 1st Tuesday of month - Meeting Room	Childminders Group Baby/Tweenies/Toddler 9.30-11.30am 2nd Wednesday	Advice Shop 9.30-12.15pm Meeting Room Brett Terry Ring to book	Worms and Wellies (Eco Tots) (2-5 yrs) 10.30-11.30am Emily Victoria
Stay in Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11.00am Toddler Room Kim/Delia	Counselling Service Ring to book an appointment MIDWIFE CLINIC MOVED TO WEST WING FROM 1st MARCH	Midwife Clinic 9am-12pm Health Room	Stay in Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11am Toddler Room Middle	Big Chef/Little Chef (2-5 yrs) 11.45-12.45pm Kim Victoria Ring to Book
Baby Signing (4 Months - 18 Months) 10-11am Baby Room	Musical Babies (0-5 yrs) 10-11am Baby Room Middle	Storytime - All 3.15-3.45pm 3rd Wednesday of Month	Parenting Starting End of January 9.30-12pm Multi-Purpose Room (Cocoon in Baby Room) Delia/Karen	NCT Group 10-11.30am 1st and 3rd Friday of Month PM
Baby Massage (6 weeks onwards) 1.30-2.30pm Baby Room Delia	Baby Yoga (4 Months onwards) 10-11am Multi-Purpose Room Nicky	Musical Tots (1 upwards) 2-2.45pm Blakedown Middle	Healthy Weight Management Course 1-3pm Last Thursday of Month	Health Visitor Drop-In 1.00-3.00pm Please check with Reception that the Health Visitor is attending
Mini Movers (Crawlers and Just Walkers) 1.30-2.30pm Multi-Purpose Room Middle	Breastfeeding Support 11-12.30pm Toddler Room Jennifer	Parents to Be 1-4pm Multi-Purpose Room	Chatter Chatter Group (2-4 yrs) 1.15-2pm Multi-Purpose Room Karen/Katie	Stay in Play (0-5 yrs) 1.30-3.00pm Toddler Room Kim/Emily
	Baby Club 1.00-2.30pm Baby Room Karen			
	PARENTS FORUM 1-2.30pm Please see Display Board for Details ALL ARE WELCOME			

**2nd SATURDAY of the month - Dad's Group -
10am - 12pm
12th March, 9th April & 14th May 2011**



RIVERSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTRE



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Woodbury Road Kidderminster DY11 7JJ 01562 514980 TreeTops Spring Timetable

TREETOPS CHILDREN'S CENTRE Woodbury Road, DY11 7JJ

MONDAY	Nursery 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Woodbury Drop-In 2nd Monday of each month 1.00 pm-2.30 pm Woodbury Creche (by referral) 9.00 am-11.00 am and use of Sensory Room Young Parents Group (Drop In) 28th March 10.30 am-12.00 pm
TUESDAY	Nursery 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Stay and Play (0-5 yrs) 9.15 am-11.00 am Speech and Language Clinic (by referral) 12.30 pm-5.00 pm Introduction to Solid Foods Sessions Every 2nd Tuesday of the month 1.00 pm-2.00 pm, 8th March, 12th April Woodbury Creche (by referral) 12.30 pm-2.30 pm and use of Sensory Room Clothes Exchange - 2nd Thursday of the Month 10.00 am - 11.00 am Counselling Sessions with Marilyn Please ring the children's centre for dates and to make an appointment
WEDNESDAY	Nursery 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Stay and Weigh (0-5 yrs) Health Visitor attends 9.30 am-11.30 am and use of Sensory Room Economic Advisor - Available 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 9.00 am-11.30 am - need to book Woodbury Creche (by referral) 12.45 pm-2.45 pm and use of Sensory Room Royal Wedding Street Party 27th April 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm (Call for info)
THURSDAY	Nursery 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Bumps & Baby Buddies (Under 1s) 9.30 am and use of Sensory Room Breast Feeding Support International Women's Day 10th March 10.00 am - 11.30 am Midwife Appointments please book with TreeTops reception, 9.00 am - 12.00 pm Clothes Exchange - 2nd Thursday of the Month 10.00 am - 11.00 am Stay and Messy Play 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm Economic Advisor Available 3rd Thursday of the month 1.30 pm - 4.15 pm Time 4 U (Sexual Advice) 3.00 pm-4.00 pm Baby Yoga 10.45 am - 11.45 am 17th, 24th, 31st March, 7th April Nursery 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Buggy Walk Last Friday of the month 10.00 am-11.30 am Healthy Eating Friday Lunch (0-5 yrs) 12.00 noon-1.00 pm and use of Sensory Room Job Centre Plus Advisor First Friday of the month 10.00 am-12.00 am Parents Forum 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm 1st April Woodbury Drop In 9.15 am-12.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
FRIDAY	For Dads with children aged 0-5 years The first Saturday of the month Please see advert in newsletter for details and the venue
SATURDAY	

GLADES LEISURE CENTRE Bromsgrove Street, DY10 2PP

TUESDAY Tots Can Swim (0-3 yrs) Water Babies 10.45 am-11.30 am

THURSDAY Tots Can Swim (3-4 yrs) Little Dolphins 1.30 pm-2.00 pm

ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL Canbery Road, DY11 6DH

WEDNESDAY Stay, Weigh and Play (0-5 yrs) 9.15 am-11.00 am

RED CROSS Park Street, DY11 6TR

THURSDAY Stay and Play (0-5 yrs) Currently out of action due to building issues

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Green - Pre-book courses/training/sessions Purple - Referral Only Sessions

For more information telephone 01562 514980 or call in at TreeTops

Marti under spot of gothic horror



Marti Pellow as Jekyll and, inset, as Hyde with Sabrina Carter as Lucy Pictures Simon Fowler

SINGER Marti Pellow reveals his dark side in gothic horror musical Jekyll and Hyde, which starts a six day run at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday.

The Broadway hit based on the classic novella by Robert Louis Stevenson, will feature the former Wet Wet Wet pop star as the obsessive scientist whose lust for knowledge unleashes a sadistic alter ego onto the streets of Victorian London.

Written by Frank Wildhorn with book and lyrics by Academy Award winning composer Leslie Briscusse, whose other credits include Scrooge and Doctor Dolittle, the show features the hit song This Is The Moment.

Men in frocks, the Trocks, aka

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, continue their technically accomplished ballet spoofs at the Hippodrome with performances tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and twice on Saturday.

Victoria Wood's Dinnerladies, in new production Second Helpings, are at The Grand, Wolverhampton, to Saturday with Andrew Dunn (Tony) and Sue Devaney (Jane) from the TV sit-com.

Wobbly

Those shameless Aussie ladies Bev Killick and Emma Powell will be exposing their wobbly bits to close scrutiny in Busting Out! at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday night. They will be back in the region at Stoke's Victoria Hall on April 12, Worcester's The Swan on April 20 and Oakengates Theatre

in Telford on April 21. Tonight (Thursday) a trio of Brummie comics - Don Maclean, Malcolm Stent and Dave Sealey - will be taking a trip down memory lane at Dudley Concert Hall.

Modern warfare is explored via the medium of dance in 5 Soldiers by the Rosie Kay Dance Company at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tomorrow night (Fri).

That's the same night that Positive Steps showcases young talent from Birmingham at the city's Crescent Theatre.

An acclaimed new touring version of RC Sherriff's classic First World War drama Journey's End is at Stoke's Regent Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, before arriving at Wolverhampton's Grand in early October.

The music of Andrew Lloyd

Webber is celebrated by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and guest singers at the Symphony Hall tonight (Fri). The Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club, featuring singer Omara Portuondo, brings the music of Cuba to the Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Mighty

Comedy highlights include: comedy actor turned stand-up Greg Davies at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday; stand-up from Dan Clark, of The Mighty Boosh, at the Wulfrun Hall on Thursday (April 7); Andy Parsons of Mock The Week with his Gruntled show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 8; Manchester's Jason Manford plays Dudley Concert Hall on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9.

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Choice

CASUALTY
BBC1, 8.25pm

We've watched in horror and distress as Ruth's previously sound mind descended into chaos. But, thankfully, it seems there could be light at the end of the tunnel when she finds Sally, a troubled young woman with a bad case of paranoia, slumped in the toilet and decides to examine her. What she discovers makes her realise that maybe, she could continue to be a doctor after all. Meanwhile, new medic Dylan Keogh's brazen, know-it-all attitude rubs his colleagues up the wrong way. However, it seems he has a softer heart than he's been letting on – he discovers an old patient's health has deteriorated badly, prompting him to find solace in the bottom of a wine bottle.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 11.45 Football Focus. 12.30 Match of the Day Live. Leeds United v Nottingham Forest (Kick-off 12.45pm). 2.55 Film: Galaxy Quest. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Tim Allen. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 5.30 All New Total Wipeout: The Awards.

6.30 So You Think You Can Dance. The last round of auditions takes place, but judges Louise Redknapp and Sisco Gomez argue over a dancer's distinctive look.

7.30 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. A man and his mother-in-law take part in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles in which contestants have the opportunity to win £100,000.

8.25 Casualty. Ruth realises she can still be a doctor – despite her bipolar diagnosis – after learning former mentor Sarah Evans has OCD, while Dylan Keogh is threatened with a lawsuit.

9.15 Live at the Apollo. Stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.20 Match of the Day. Including West Ham United v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games; Weatherview. 1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 Coast. (R) 12.15 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.00 Film: The Prince and the Showgirl. (1957) Romantic comedy, with Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe. 2.55 Priceless Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.25 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.25 Flog It! (R) 4.55 Film: Carry On Again, Doctor. (1969) Comedy, starring Sid James.

6.20 Dad's Army. A bomb lands on the bank. (R)

6.50 Welsh Greats.

7.20 The Last Goon Show of All. Comedy, with Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan. (R)

8.00 Edward VII: Prince of Pleasure. Documentary drawing on research to unravel the mystery of a monarch who has been described as a sex addict, an astute political operator and a boorish philistine. (R)

9.00 Goldie's Band: By Royal Appointment. The 12 chosen youngsters develop their performance and composing skills by taking part in intensive masterclasses and workshops with music industry experts.

10.00 The Tudors. Henry is troubled by visions. Last in the series.

10.55 Nurse Jackie. Mrs Alakitus offers Eddie his job back.

11.25 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. The final at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, India. 12.25 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. (R) 12.55 Film: The Rainbow. (1988) Period drama, starring Sammi Davis and Paul McGann. 2.40 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 Coronation Street. 11.45 This Morning. Saturday. 12.45 Monk. 1.40 ITV News: Weather. 1.45 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.15 Film: Like Mike. (2002) Children's fantasy adventure, starring Bow Wow. 4.05 Film: Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) Comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Hogan. 5.45 Regional Programmes. 5.55 ITV News; Weather.

6.10 New You've Been Framed.

6.40 Harry Hill's TV Burp Compilation. 7.10 Ant & Dec's Push the Button. Last week's winning family returns to take on a new set of challenges, with the teams hoping to hold on to as much of their allocated £100,000 as possible. Last in the series.

8.25 Live Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?: Mother's Day Special. Chris Tarrant hosts as David Walliams and his mother Kathleen take part in a special charity edition with Oly Murs and his mum Vicky, and Patsy Palmer and her son Charley.

9.40 FILM: Wanted. (2008) Premiere. A man joins a secret society of assassins that kills people destined to commit acts of evil. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie. 11.45 ITV News; Weather.

12.00 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.05 Swington. (R) 2.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 Sali Mali. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 FILM Superbike World Championship. (R) 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 T4: Friends. (R) 9.30 T4: Rio: T4 Movie Special. 10.00 T4: Friends. (R) 10.30 T4: Glee. 11.25 T4: Great British Hairdresser. 12.30 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 That Paralympic Show. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 3.55 The Secret Supper Club. 4.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. Farmer's son John Beachell hosts the final dinner party in East Yorkshire. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. The role God might play in natural disasters.

7.00 River Cottage Every Day. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall rejuvenates the working-week lunch. (R)

8.00 Seven Ages of Britain. The fifth age of Britain, beginning in 1066. (R)

9.00 FILM: The Transporter 2. (2005) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham.

10.35 Stand Up for the Week. Satirical comedy show, hosted by Kevin Bridges.

11.25 FILM: Nine to Five. (1980) Comedy, starring Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda.

1.30 Sex in the 80s: Pop Sex. (R) 2.25 Privileged. (R) 3.50 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.35 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.00 Countdown. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Meals in Moments. 10.10 Fifth Gear. (R) 10.40 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.40 Megastructures: Extreme Bridge Demolition. (R) 12.45 Film: Up Periscope. (1959) Adventure, with James Garner. 2.55 Film: The Sea Chase. (1955) Adventure, starring John Wayne. 5.05 Film: Anzio. (1968) Drama, starring Robert Mitchum.

7.20 5 News Weekend. 7.25 NCIS. A blind man unwittingly photographs evidence of a murder, leading Jeffery and the team to the corpse of a petty officer who was stabbed with a knife left at the scene. (R)

8.20 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. William Bowers highlights some of Gil Grissom's most heroic moments, beginning as the team struggles to piece together events leading to the murder of a showgirl. (R)

9.15 CSI: NY. The investigators find three bodies when they arrive at the scene of an accident involving a truck full of revellers. Drama, starring Gary Sinise.

10.15 CSI: Miami. The mother of Horatio's son Kyle is involved in a murder. (R)

11.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Two bodies are found buried under tar at a building site. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.50 Meals in Moments. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2 3.50 American Idol 6.45 Film: Back to the Future (1985) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Michael J. Fox. 9.00 Film: Magicians (2007) A conjuring double act who became bitter rivals are forced to bury the hatchet to compete in an international competition. Comedy, starring David Mitchell. 10.55 Celebrity Juice 11.40 Film: Daylight (1996)

ITV3 3.50 Foyle's War 6.00 Inspector Morse 8.00 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Murder in Suburbia

ITV4 1.55 Film: The Big Country (1958) 5.15 Film: Dunkirk (1958) 8.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 9.00 Ultimate Force 10.30 Film: First Blood (1982) A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

BBC THREE 7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Craze 10.00 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 10.45 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad!

BBC FOUR 7.00 Nature's Great Events 8.00 Al Murray's German Adventure 9.00 Spiral 10.50 Twenty Twelve 11.20 Women in Love

E4 1.25 Hollyoaks 4.00 Make It or Break It 4.55 Friends 6.00 Glee 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.55 Friends 9.00 Rude Tube 10.00 Film: Predator 2 (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.

FILM4 2.55 Baby's Day Out (1994) 4.50 Batman (1966) 6.55 The Eagle Special 7.00 Turner & Hooch (1989) 9.00 PS I Love You (2007) 11.25 A History of Violence (2005)

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Choice



THE CUBE

ITV1, 7pm

Phillip Schofield is easily the most likeable man on telly. If he's not bringing us the news and celebrity gossip of a morning, he's consoling the latest contestant to be beaten by the large glass cube. Tonight he returns to our screens to present another set of challenges in the now-famous Perspex box to eager contestants, as they battle to win a cool £250,000. In this first instalment, firefighter Hayley and binman Paul are among the first to run the gauntlet. Like the rest of us, they might be quietly confident that they can surpass the speed, agility, balance and memory tasks, but they can count on having a re-think once under the actual spotlight.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks. 12.00 The Politics Show. 1.05 EastEnders. 3.00 Bargain Hunt. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Points of View. 4.45 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Regional Programme. 6.30 The Boat That Guy Built. (R)

7.00 Countryfile. A visit to the Yorkshire Wolds, where Julia Bradbury watches one of England's oldest horse races and Matt Baker witnesses seabirds arrive for the start of the breeding season. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts return to the British Museum, where items brought in by members of the public include photos of a young Elvis Presley and a pot that is not as ancient as it seems.

9.00 Waking the Dead. Part one of two. The team investigates the death of a terror suspect.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.25 Imagine: The Trouble with Tolstoy.

Conclusion. Alan Yentob retraces the author's troubled later years.

11.25 FILM: The Last Station. (2009) Premiere. Period drama, starring James McAvoy.

1.10 The Sky at Night; Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: MasterChef. (R) 2.35 Holby City. (R) 3.35 Men of Rock. (R) 4.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP: The Spanish Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). 2.05 Film: Viva Knievel! (1977) Motorcycling adventure, starring Evel Knievel. 3.45 Film: The Gumball Rally. (1976) Car-race comedy, starring Michael Sarrazin. 5.30 The Truth About Lions. (R)

6.30 Jackie Stewart: The Flying Scot. Portrait of the former racing driver, winner of three Formula One World Championships, chronicling his early career and subsequent role as an internationally respected businessman. Previously shown on BBC4.

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond debate which company has made the greatest number of exceptional cars, and Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans is the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. (R)

9.00 Louis Theroux: America's Most Hated Family in Crisis. The reporter pays a return visit to the Westboro Baptist Church.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Manchester City v Sunderland and Fulham v Blackpool.

11.00 Football League Trophy Final. Brentford v Carlisle.

11.40 FILM: Awaydays. (2009) Premiere. Drama, with Stephen Graham.

12.00 BBC News. 4.35 The Super League Show. 5.05 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 10.25 House Gift. (R) 11.30 This Morning: Sunday. 12.30 Dinner Date. (R) 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.35 Film: Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.05 Torvill and Dean's Dancing on Ice Tour 2010. (R) 4.05 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.10 Harry Hill's TV Burp Compilation. Classics skits and quips from past series. (R)

6.35 Regional Programmes. 6.45 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 The Cube. New series.

A woman with a penchant for risk takes part in the game show, completing tasks within the confines of a large cube in a bid to win £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

8.00 Lewis. New series. A college reunion takes a tragic turn when a guest is found murdered, and Lewis calls in a former colleague to help investigate a possible link to a 10-year-old case.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 FILM: The Bucket List. (2008) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.

12.05 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.50 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Film: D.O.A.: Dead or Alive. (2006) Adventure, with Jaime Pressly. 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freeports on 4. 7.30 Crunchtime. 7.55 T4: The Crush. 8.25 T4: Friends. (R) 8.55 T4: Friends. (R) 9.25 T4: Hollyoaks. 11.55 T4: Glee. (R) 12.55 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.25 Deal or No Deal. 5.30 Time Team.

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. The role of God in natural disasters.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. A woman with a penchant for risk takes part in the game show, completing tasks within the confines of a large cube in a bid to win £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

8.00 Civilization: Is the West History? Niall Ferguson examines the roots of modern consumerism, and asks whether the global dominance of the West's big brands and major corporations could be coming to an end.

9.00 Country House Rescue. A stately home that has been in its owner's family since the 11th century.

10.00 FILM: The Magdalene Sisters. (2002) Drama, starring Geraldine McEwan.

12.15 Film: Lost in Translation. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. 2.05 Amelia in Moments. (R) 2.15 Never Did Me Any Harm. (R) 3.15 The Play's the Thing. (R) 4.10 Without a Trace. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Florets. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.40 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) 6.50 The Beeps. (R) 7.00 Miao Mao. (R) 7.10 Chiro. (R) 7.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 7.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 Igam Ogam. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Hana's Helpline. (R) 8.30 Family! (R) 8.40 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 8.45 Film: Prince of Persia. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) 10.00 Nigel Marven's Rhino Adventure. (R) 11.05 Andre Rieu in New York. 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.05 Emergency Bikers. (R) 2.05 Film: Prince Charming. (2001) Fairy-tale fantasy, starring Sean Maguire. 3.50 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo. 5.45 5 News Weekend. 5.50 Film: High School Musical 3: Senior Year. (2008) Premiere. Teen musical sequel, starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens.

8.10 FILM: Just Married. (2003) Romantic comedy, with Brittany Murphy, Ashton Kutcher, Christian Kane and David Moscow.

10.00 FILM: Two Weeks Notice. (2002) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant.

12.00 The Simon Cowell Factor. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.50 Meals in Moments. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2 4.20 The Only Way Is Essex 5.50 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) 8.00 Kerry Katona - The Next Chapter 9.00 Benidorm 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.45 Film: Batman (1989) Comic-book adventure, with Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

ITV3 3.45 Pollyanna 5.45 Film: Forever Young (1992) 7.50 An Audience with Michael Buble 9.00 Film: City of Angels (1998) Romantic fantasy, starring Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan and Dennis Franz. 11.15 Jane Eyre

ITV4 11.00 British Touring Car Championship. The opening round of the season at the Brands Hatch Circuit. 6.00 Film: Brewster's Millions (1985) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Nighthawks (1981) Action adventure, starring Sylvester Stallone. 11.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors

BBC THREE 7.00 The World's Strictest Parents 8.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands 9.00 Police Academy UK 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 White Van Man

BBC FOUR 7.00 Come Cloag Dancing - Treasures of English Folk Dance 8.00 The Elger: Wall of Death 9.00 Re-Trial by TV: The Rise and Fall of Rough Justice 10.00 The Highest Court in the Land: Justice Makers 11.00 Eyewitness

E4 3.05 Make It or Break It 4.05 Film: Big Momma's House 2 (2006) 6.00 Friends 7.30 90210 8.25 Friends 10.00 Film: The Hole (2001)

FILM4 3.10 Genevieve (1953) 4.50 Just My Luck (2006) 6.50 4 Films For 6.55 The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003) 9.00 The Sum of All Fears (2002) Thriller, starring Ben Affleck. 11.20 The Breed (2006)

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Empty Homes. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weekend Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Bang Goes the Theory. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Finished at Filthy. 9.00 Waking the Dead. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 Film: The Big Easy. (1987) Romantic crime thriller, starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin; Weatherview. 1.20 Sign Zone: MasterChef. (R) 2.20 Silk. (R) 3.20 Arctic with Bruce Parry. (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Real Rescues. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Lambing Live. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.00 Louis Theroux: America's Most Hated Family in Crisis. (R) 12.00 An Island Parish. (R) 12.50 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 Pointless. 10.30 Newsnight. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Real Crime: A Shot in the Dark. (R) 11.35 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mali. (R) 6.10 Max Bear. 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.05 Friends. (R) 8.10 Supernanny. 10.00 Brothers & Sisters. 10.55 Relocation. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. 12.10 Jamie at Home. (R) 12.35 Film: Sea Wife. (1957) Second World War romantic adventure, starring Richard Burton and Joan Collins. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Fern. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thout.tv. 8.00 Dispatches: Cashing in on Degrees. 9.00 Born Every Minute. (R) 10.00 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 11.05 The X Factor. 12.05 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces - Katy B. 12.20 Music on 4: 4Play: Gypsy and the Cat. 12.40 European Poker Tour. 1.35 Rome Wasn't Built in a Day. (R) 2.30 Royal Deaths and Diseases. (R) 3.25 Codex. (R) 4.20 The Bible: A History. (R) 5.15 Ugly Betty. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 The Blasters. (R) 12.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. 3.15 Film: Recipe for Revenge. (1998) Crime drama, starring Corbin Bernsen. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It? 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show. 5 News at 9. 9.00 Film: Executive Decision. (1996) Action thriller, starring Kurt Russell. 11.45 Film: Undisputed. (2002) Boxing drama, starring Vin Diesel. 1.30 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Animal Fights Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. Police in Kent attend a stake-out. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Empty Homes. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weekend Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Bang Goes the Theory. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Finished at Filthy. 9.00 Waking the Dead. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 See You in Court. 11.25 The World's Worst Place to Be Gay?; Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone: Michel Roux's Service. (R) 1.30 Bang Goes the Winter Weather Special. (R) 2.30 Who Does What? (R) 3.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.40 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.25 Real Rescues. (R) 2.55 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.40 Flog It! (R) 4.25 Pointless. 5.10 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.55 Party Political Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Lambing Live. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 11.00 Film: Perfume: The Story of a Murderer. (2006) Period thriller, starring Dianna Agron and Alan Rickman. 1.35 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 Pointless. 10.30 Newsnight. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Real Crime: A Shot in the Dark. (R) 11.35 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 Max Bear. 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.10 Supernanny. 10.00 Brothers & Sisters. 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: The Quiller Memorandum. (1966) Spy thriller, starring George Segal. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Game show, with Noel Edmonds. 5.00 Fern. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thout.tv. 8.00 Superize vs Superskinky. 9.00 Katie: My Beautiful Friends. 10.00 Campus. 11.10 Pete Versus Life. (R) 11.45 Set of Comedy. 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 Freeports on 4. (R) 1.40 The Grid. (R) 2.05 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 2.30 Sailing. (R) 2.55 ITV Triathlon World Cup Magazine. (R) 3.50 Beach Volleyball. (R) 4.45 Crumchtime. (R) 5.10 Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 The Blasters. (R) 12.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. 3.15 Film: NYC: Tornado Terror. (2008) Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. Colby Johansson and Jerry Wasserman. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs. 5 News Update. 8.00 Tsunami: British Search & Rescue. 5 News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. One of Grissom's former lovers is suspected of murder. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Empty Homes. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weekend Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. (R) 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 The Boat That Guy Built. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Would I Lie to You? (R) 11.15 Film: Just Friends. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Ryan Reynolds and Amy Smart; National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.15 Country Tracks. (R) 2.15 Natural World. (R) 3.15 Baking Made Easy. (R) 3.45 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Coast. (R) 1.40 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.25 Real Rescues. (R) 2.55 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.40 Flog It! (R) 4.25 Pointless. 5.10 Escape to the Country. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Lambing Live. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 11.00 Film: The Crimson Petal and the White. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. (R) 1.15 Country Tracks. (R) 2.15 Natural World. (R) 3.15 Baking Made Easy. (R) 3.45 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 Pointless. 10.30 Newsnight. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Real Crime: A Shot in the Dark. (R) 11.35 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Max Bear. 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.10 Supernanny. 10.00 Brothers & Sisters. 10.55 Country House Rescue. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Gallipoli. (1981) 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Fern. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thout.tv. 8.00 Vacation. 8.30 Superscrimmers: Waste Not Want Not. 9.00 Jamie's Dream School. 10.00 The Model Agency. 11.05 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.40 The Big C. 12.15 Music on 4: Abbey Road Debuts. 12.30 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 12.45 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.00 Music on 4: Russian Standard Vodka Originals Presents. (R) 1.10 The Frontier House. (R) 2.05 Film: Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind. (1984) 4.15 Ugly Betty. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Great Railway Adventures with Dan Cruickshank. (R) 12.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 3.15 Film: The Hollywood Mom's Mystery. (2004) 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Emergency Bikers. (R) 5 News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker: Aussie Millions. 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Cities. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Empty Homes. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weekend Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Political Broadcast. (R) 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Watchdog. 9.00 Newsnight. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week: Holiday Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: Finished at Filthy? Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryville. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 Rip Off Britain. 2.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Racing from Antree. 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.55 Party Political Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 David Attenborough's First Life. (R) 8.00 Lambing Live. 9.00 A History of Celtic Britain. 10.00 Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience. 10.30 Newsnight. 12.25 Sign Zone: Finished at Filthy? Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryville. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The True Religion. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Monroe. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Benidorm. (R) 11.35 Celebrity Gormenghasts. (R) 12.30 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.35 British Touring Car Championship Highlights. 3.50 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Max Bear. 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 Friends. (R) 9.05 Wife Swap USA. (R) 10.00 Brothers & Sisters. 10.55 The Restoration Man. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.15 Film: The Colditz Story. (1954) Second World War drama, starring John Mills. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Fern. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thout.tv. 8.00 Three in a Bed. 9.00 Dad's Army. 9.30 Bachelorette Special. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. 11.05 Friday Night Dinner. (R) 11.35 The Ricky Gervais Show. 12.05 Music on 4: 4Play: The Kids. 12.25 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 12.40 Music on 4: The Crush. 1.35 Face of Britain. (R) 2.30 Dispatches: Cashing in on Degrees. (R) 3.20 Unreported World. (R) 3.45 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.40 Ugly Betty. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Great Railway Adventures with Dan Cruickshank. (R) 12.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 3.15 Film: The Last Chance. (2003) Drama, starring Jennie Garth. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.25 How Do They Do It? (R) 7.55 Live UEFA Europa League Football. Benfica v PSV Eindhoven (Kick-off 8.05pm). 10.00 Film: Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story. (1993) Biopic of the kung fu movie star, charting his rise to fame and fortune in Hong Kong and later Hollywood before his untimely death in 1973. With Jason Scott Lee, Lauren Holly, Robert Wagner and Michael Learned. 12.25 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Empty Homes. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weekend Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport. (R) 9.00 Have I Got News for You. 9.30 QI. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 John Bishop: Elvis Has Left the Building. 11.45 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 12.00 Film: Donnie Darko. (2001) Fantasy drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal; Weatherview. 1.50 Sign Zone: Michel Roux's Service. (R) 2.50 The Boat That Guy Built. (R) 3.20 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.50 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Racing from Antree. The second day of the Grand National meeting. 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 Escape to the Country. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Golf: The Masters. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 Lambing Live. 10.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 Later with Jools Holland. 12.50 Film: Backstage. (2000) Documentary following hip-hop stars. 2.15 BBC News. 3.50 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Baboos with Bill Bailey. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Benidorm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Take Me Out. (R) 11.35 The Cube. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Max Bear. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 Friends. (R) 9.05 Wife Swap USA. (R) 10.00 Brothers & Sisters. 10.55 Gok's Fashion Fix. (R) 12.00 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Crash Dive. (1943) Romantic wartime drama, starring Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Fern. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thout.tv. 8.00 Vacation. 8.30 Superscrimmers: Waste Not Want Not. 9.00 Jamie's Dream School. 10.00 The Model Agency. 11.05 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.40 The Big C. 12.15 Music on 4: Abbey Road Debuts. 12.30 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 12.45 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.00 Music on 4: Russian Standard Vodka Originals Presents. (R) 1.10 The Frontier House. (R) 2.05 Film: Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind. (1984) 4.15 Ugly Betty. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Great Railway Adventures with Dan Cruickshank. (R) 12.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. 3.15 Film: Devil Wears. (2003) Adventure, starring Joe Lando. Nicole Eggert. Peter Graham-Gaudreau and Garwin Sanford. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear. 5 News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Munchies. 4.30 Fifth Gear. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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the pulse

Joe still
rocks on

ONE of the UK's original rock and rollers, Joe Brown will be celebrating more than 50 years in showbiz at his concerts at Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

He will be at the Grand Theatre on April 10, and Birmingham Town Hall on April 15. The son of a London pub landlord was first marketed as a chirpy Cockney alternative to the American rockers.

In his youth he toured with Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent and Billy Fury. He had several hits, including A Picture Of You, It Only Took A Minute and That's What Love Will Do, alongside his band The Bruvvers.

Last but not least
for The Unthanks

GEORDIE folk group The Unthanks will be in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday (April 6) to celebrate the release of their haunting new album, Last.

The group, pictured, feature singing sisters Rachel and Becky Unthank.

They perform traditional folk from Northumberland, along with their own songs and covers of artists as diverse



as Robert Wyatt and Antony Hegarty of Antony and the Johnsons. Last is their fourth album after 2005 debut Cruel

Sister, 2007's Mercury Music Prize nominated The Baines and Here's The Tender Coming in 2009.

Be warned! This concert
could blow your head off

DVD review

Skyline (15)

AMERICA is worried. The combination of 9/11 and economic decline has seen the most powerful nation start to think the unthinkable, that their role as world leaders is coming to an end and that the days of comfort and certainty are under threat.

Frankly, if the 20th Century belonged to the USA, it's looking like the 21st will have Made in China stamped on it.

This unease is reflected in Hollywood, which is producing the biggest crop of monster and alien invasion movies since the boom era of sci-fi B movies, the 1950s, when Communism and the atomic age were worrying Americans.

Just out on DVD, Skyline continues the trend with an apocalyptic assault on Los Angeles which starts with bright blue lights that draw residents to their windows like moths to a flame.

The lights are a nod to Close Encounters, and there are influences drawn from lots of other sci-fi movies, chiefly War Of The Worlds (Tom Cruise version),



Under tentacled threat, Skyline has good special effects

Cloverfield and Godzilla. We follow a bunch of music industry types and their girlfriends who find they have a grandstand view of the destruction of LA from the skyscraper penthouse suite of a rap star when alien ships appear in the sky and start sucking up humans like giant vacuum cleaners.

The dialogue is pretty clichéd but the acting decent from the no

star cast, the special effects are good and, after building up a feeling of dread, there is a roller-coaster ride of shocks, and even a twist at the end.

The tentacled aliens and their giant cousins are impressive and Skyline confirms its B-movie status with the aliens' reason for coming to earth.

Why? To scoop out our brains, of course. **Leon Burakowski**

By Jon Pritchard

ROCK 'N' ROLLERS The Jim Jones Revue hit Birmingham this weekend – and promise to be better than ever.

Armed with new keyboard player Henry Herbert the band, which cites its influences as Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard, said it is going to put on a show to remember.

Rupert Orton, who plays guitar, said: "Henry is incredible and we're developing really well as a live band. It's entertaining for us to play and exciting for people to watch."

"We're really excited to be back in the UK. Prepare to have your head blown off."

The band released its second album, Burning Your House Down, last year after recording it live due to its reputation as being an excellent live number.

Sophisticated

Rupert said: "Every aspect of rock 'n' roll that has ever been created has been put into a cocktail of high energy music by us. It's like having 10,000 volts pumped into your body."

The album shows a more sophisticated writing style and Rupert believes it was a step forward for the band.

He said: "It was the first album we recorded in a proper studio, and we did it all live so the energy was amazing. Plus, we're better writers now."

The Jim Jones Revue play the O2 Academy 2 in Birmingham on April 3, tickets cost £10.

Dinner Ladies: Second Helpings
The Grand, Wolverhampton

IT'S served up with lashings of good acting and double helpings of humour. Dinner Ladies, based on the BBC TV sitcom, is on the menu at the Grand Theatre until Saturday.

It's back by popular demand and the title is very apt. Dinner Ladies: Second Helpings as this may be a new production and story but it has many of the same cast (Sue Devaney and Andrew Dunn) and just like Oliver you will be asking for more.

This hilarious new adventure from a staff canteen is guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face but sandwiched between the laughter and banter are some very poignant moments and a bitter sweet twist at the end.

Some of the lines are priceless, typical Victoria Wood, who brought the series to the television screens. With lines like 'the third most stressful thing you can do in life is deliver bread' it portrayed how everyday life and feelings can unfold over a cup of tea.

The acting was excellent, particularly from Andrew Dunn as Tony the canteen manager and his love interest Bren, played superbly by Laura Sheppard, and Barrie Palmer as the handyman Stan who got more excited by the make of a screwdriver than what was offered on offer in the bedroom department.

A very tasty offering.

Sue Attwater

Beyond The Barricade.
The Grand, Wolverhampton

GOOSE bump music and spine tingling vocals, this must be one of the classiest shows around recreating original West End and Broadway musical hit songs with amazing authenticity.

The cast of four past principle performers from the West End delivered crystal clear words to the magical music provided by first class musicians.

The goose bumps were up straight away with songs from Miss Saigon, followed by Phantom, Blood Brothers, Love Never Dies, Chess and The Jersey Boys. The Grand's own children's choir joined the performers for an exciting medley from The Lion King.

Finishing with the all time great Les Mis, the entire audience were on their feet for a much deserved standing ovation.

Les Jowett

Opera Della Luna, HMS Pinafore.
The Grand, Wolverhampton

THIS rendition of Gilbert and Sullivan's Pinafore was given a novel opening when the cast pretty much built the convincing set during the overture.

The gusto with which the rigging and mast were hauled up was carried throughout the excellent performance which tells the story of love across the class barriers aboard one of Her Majesty's ships.

Captain Corcoran, played with suitable pomposity by Wryn Pencarreg, is delighted that a love match is imminent between his daughter Josephine, played by the crystal-voiced, porcelain beauty Fiona Hammacott, and a remarkably Rowan Atkinson-like Sir Joseph Porter KCB, brought to the stage with full comic affect by Philip Cox.

The problem is Josephine loves the "hero" of the piece, Englishman Ralph Rackstraw, portrayed by the rugged Trevor Jary. Della Luna brought life, lightness and passion to all the well-known songs which tell the story of snobbery and the ultimate triumph of love over all adversity.

Although all the cast and musicians were virtually faultless, special mention must be given to cross-dressing Graham Hoadly who played both the obnoxious old sea salt Dick Deadeye and the sexually repressed Sir Joseph's aunt with great comedy timing and expression.

There were times when the voices could have been a little stronger but it never detracted from the overall performance, what never? Well hardly ever.

Danny Farragher

That'll Be The Day.

The Grand Wolverhampton

RELIVING their youth, the theatre was filled with mainly rock 'n' roll pensioners for a nostalgic, foot-stomping show. The hugely talented cast takes you on a roller coaster ride with hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s, with uncanny accuracy.

Every member of this unique group delivered a polished performance, not only with their vocals, but also with their skilled musicianship and brilliant delivery of comedy.

Side splitting takes on Mick Jagger and Andy Pandy had the audience wiping away tears of laughter and first lines of old TV ads had us singing the completed rhyme showing our age.

Les Jowett



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CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Ten ways to be frugal with your fuel as the oil prices escalate

ROAD SAFETY and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is urging drivers to be as fuel efficient as possible – and has come up with tips to make your tank last longer.

David Williams MBE, the chief executive officer of GEM, says: "We have never seen such a significant increase in fuel prices, largely due to the VAT increase as well as high global oil prices."

There are, however, some steps that the everyday motorist can be taking to be as fuel efficient as possible and ensure they are getting every penny's worth.

"Many of the tips are quite simple, yet many people do not realise just how much of an impact they could have."

1. Get it checked

Modern car engines are complicated pieces of machinery which rely on a vast array of electronic components that can easily fail.

To ensure maximum efficiency, have your car serviced regularly by a recognised garage. The money spent can make you savings in the long term.

2. Tread carefully

Ensure tyres are always inflated to the correct pressure. Tyres which are under-inflated by even a small amount increase fuel consumption noticeably.

Check them at least once a month and try to check pressures when the tyres are warm after a short drive as "cold" tyres give a false low pressure reading.

3. Lose weight

Never carry unnecessary weight in the car as it will reduce efficiency. Golf clubs, pushchairs, toolboxes and so on can weigh down a car so remove them when they are not needed.

Also remove roof-racks, cycle-racks and storage boxes when they are not being used as they affect the aerodynamics of the car.

4. Hot and cold

Do not waste fuel by warming the car before a journey. However a warm engine is more efficient than a cold one so try to carry out all your trips in succession so the engine does not get cold between stops.

5. Plan ahead

Take time to plan your journeys to avoid congestion, ensure you take the best route and know exactly where you are going. An



High prices at the pumps are punishing car drivers

unplanned detour because you are lost can be very costly in wasted fuel.

6. Slow down

Reducing your average speed by just a few miles per hour can have a noticeable effect on fuel consumption and your wallet.

Driving at 70mph uses nine per cent more fuel than driving at 60mph. Cruising at 80mph (a recent suggestion to raise the motorway limit) uses a staggering 25 per cent more fuel than driving at 70mph.

7. Nice and easy does it

Most drivers could save a significant amount of fuel by simply reading the road further ahead and slowing earlier for traffic lights and other hazards thus avoiding unnecessary acceleration, heavy braking then acceleration while pulling away again.

Carrying out these manoeuvres in a steady, more controlled way will not add to your journey time but will cut your fuel bill.

Driving more gently, avoiding harsh acceleration and using the gearbox to gain a higher gear more quickly could possibly be the best fuel-efficiency tip. Where possible change up before reaching 2,500 rpm (petrol) or 2,000 rpm (diesel).

Most newer cars have an indicator showing fuel consumption, normally expressed in mpg, which constantly monitors your driving efficiency. Try to improve

this figure on every journey.

8. Keep your cool

Most newer cars are fitted with air conditioning. If the extra cooling is not needed switch the air conditioning off to reduce demand on the engine.

However, the system must not be turned off for long periods as harmful bacteria can build up and it could prove costly to repair. Use air conditioning sparingly but ensure it is on for several minutes at least every fortnight. Remember, at higher speeds opening car windows may save the use of air conditioning but will increase the drag and out-weight the fuel saving. So keep windows and sun roofs closed on faster roads.

9. Exploring for fuel

Prices can vary greatly. However, if it requires an extra journey to find where to save a few pence per litre there may not be an overall saving. Remember where the best deals are and fill up when you are passing rather than make a separate journey.

10. A bit drastic

If you are able to avoid one journey each week by walking or cycling the saving at the end of the year could be substantial.

If you are thinking of changing your car consider carefully your true needs as it may be possible to swap to a smaller, more fuel-efficient model.

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Honda's hunt for talent of future

MOTOR giant Honda has launched a campaign to find Britain's most talented makers, to promote the skills of its car-building engineers in Swindon.

"Made in Britain" aims to unearth the country's highly-skilled crafters, builders, innovators and techno-gurus through a new Facebook campaign, which will offer outstanding creators "Development Awards" worth up to £1,000.

Over 80 per cent of the Honda cars sold in the UK are built by over 3,000 engineers at its plant in Swindon, Wiltshire. The factory produces around 600 cars a day for British drivers, and for export to 63 countries across the world.

Honda isn't the only one making incredible things on our shores. Britain is buzzing with doers, makers, builders, bakers – creators of all kinds. And "Made in Britain" encourages them to share their skills by uploading details and images of their work to a dedicated Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/hondamadeinbritain>.

Every three months, Honda will award a development grant to cultivate the talents of the most skilled makers.

This could be used to pay for a course of classes to improve skills, materials and equipment, or a new website to promote their wares.

Hyundai's great way to jump waiting list

HYUNDAI is offering to help buyers on waiting lists for its popular ix35 model.

The compact cross-over vehicle has proven to be a popular choice – especially the 2.0-litre diesel variant – not only across Europe, but also worldwide.

According to the Korean firm, its ix35 1.7-litre diesel model is more freely available, allowing Hyundai to offer such cars to its 200 longest waiting customers as an interim solution.

Original

The offer will enable customers to own a new 1.7-litre diesel manual ix35 immediately, and run it until their original ix35 2.0-litre diesel is ready. Customers can then move to the new 2.0-litre car – all for the price of their original order.

In practice, a customer would buy a 1.7-litre diesel ix35 from their dealership before the end of March – at the same time completing any part-exchange they intended.

When the customer's ix35 2.0-litre diesel they

ordered is ready, they can part-exchange the 1.7-litre diesel at the price they paid for it, against their new 2.0 diesel – paying only the difference between the price they paid for the 1.7-litre and the price of the new 2.0-litre car as previously agreed with their dealer.

In addition, Hyundai will give the customer £300 to cover costs that may be incurred for arranging

finance and insurance on two cars instead of one.

Commenting on the initiative, Tony Whitehorn, Hyundai UK's managing director said: "The demand for ix35 and long waiting list demonstrates the popularity of the vehicle.

"But we are very aware of the inconvenience that these delays are causing our customers.

"We are doing all we can to improve the situation and constantly looking at ways to alleviate the wait. Customer satisfaction is our priority and we hope that this offer of an alternative ix35 will be attractive for our longest waiting customers."

Hyundai is also looking at the feasibility of rolling out this offer to other customers.



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Impressive Callum signs

HARRIERS have tied up the services of winger Callum Gittings, who has penned a year's extension to his Aggborough contract.

Birmingham-born Callum linked up with the club in pre-season after leaving Alvechurch. He impressed during a lengthy trial and earning his first full-time professional deal.

He has progressed since then, his natural, technical ability becoming a big asset to the side. This season he's already turned out on 38 occasions and netted four goals.

The Aggborough management has moved to ensure he continues his progress at Harriers by securing his signature until the end of next season. Assistant boss Gary Whild said: "Callum has contributed a large part to what we have done so far this season and he has been rewarded for that."

"The good thing about him for us as management team is that he has the ability to play in a number of positions and that is massive with a small squad."

Girls contact success



Back row, from left: Yasmine Rhoden, Nicole Jones, Harriet Langford-Reeve, Megan Tinsdale, Poppy Archer and Emily Shepherd. Front, from left: Amy Riley, Lizzie Mills, captain, Charlotte Jones and Charlotte Bond

MEET the Bewdley Girls Rugby team who won the year 9/10 contact league in the inaugural Lions Club Rugby Championship at Worcester's Sixways Stadium in March. Schools from the county took part and each of the 24 teams were allocated a country who have played in the Women's European Championship. Success in the league gave Bewdley, playing as Italy, a place in the final where they lost to Italy (Nunnery Wood).

Golf winners

IN the men's Daily Mail Foursomes Medal, Paul Upton and Paul Simmons won with 73 points. They will now represent Kidderminster Golf Club in the next round. Other placings: 2nd Bill Styles/Mike Bryce 73.5pts, 3rd Mike Nickolson/Brian Field 74pts 4th Graham Bashford/John Holt 75pts.

Eve Owen, Val Hunt, and Thelma Lawson won the ladies three ball Alliance with 83 points. Jan Biggs, Wendy Ray and Hilda Gregory got 81 points. Cameron Dean won the junior medal with 34 points followed by Ben Howells and Sam Inett

The Kidderminster Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

Bewdley pegged back then claim late win

BEWDLEY TOWN made hard work of adding three points to their tally so far this season's tally

But the win has kept them in sixth place in the West Midlands Premier League which was the initial target at the beginning of the season.

Bewdley Town 4 Darlaston 3

Bewdley raced into a 3-0 lead by half time, playing some scintillating football with a man-of-the-match performance from Alex Taffe and goals coming from Sean Wright, Oly Smith and Chris Seekings.

It looked a formality that more would follow in the second half as Darlaston struggled to cope with Bewdley's speed and movement, but within 10 minutes Darlaston pulled a fortuitous goal back which gave them some fresh impetus. With Bewdley

wasting chance after chance, Darlaston managed to score another two to level the scores at 3-3. But Bewdley dug deep, peppering the Darlaston goal with attack after attack and with five minutes left, Robbie Orme popped up at the far post

after another Bewdley bombardment, to drive the ball past several oncoming Darlaston defenders to grab the winner.

Although not exactly a game for the purists, it was an entertaining affair for the 60+ crowd that missed the England Wales clash.

STAGS KEPT AT BAY IN VICTORY

Mansfield 1 Kidderminster 2

HARRIERS strengthened their grip on a promotion play-off place with a comfortable victory at Mansfield.

Goals from Chris McPhee and Keith Briggs extended their unbeaten run to 12 games.

Manager Steve Burr said: "Mansfield is a difficult place to come but I thought we were excellent."

Harriers quickly took the game to FA Trophy finalists Mansfield, only to find home keeper David Grof in inspired form. The Hungarian-born stopper, on loan from Notts County, produced some stunning saves in the first 12 minutes.

Matty Blair and Sean Canham were quick to test the keeper's agility with Blair again forcing saves on two occasions before Tom Shaw saw his effort blocked by Grof.

On 15 minutes Harriers took the lead. The uncomfortable 'Stags' defence once again parted allowing Chris McPhee to run onto Nick Wright's through ball.

The utility man held off a last-ditch challenge to slide the ball under Grof and record his 16th goal of the campaign.

The home side recovered and defender Paul Stonehouse fired in a shot that Danny Lewis blocked. Grof denied the lively Wright approaching the interval.

After the break Mansfield's Louis Briscoe, Connor and Adam Smith tried their luck from long range. Visiting striker Sean Canham came closest to scoring when he headed a Blair centre narrowly wide.

Harriers skipper Keith Briggs, a scorer of rare but memorable goals, obliged with a 20-yard screamer.

Substitute Kyle Nix forced Lewis to tip over a fierce shot on 74 minutes before Mansfield captain Adam Murray blasted in a rising shot.

Black belter of a time for judo club



The black belters... back row, from left, Sally Moon, Gemma Edwards, Millie Hancock and Rachel Moon and front row, from left, Charis Hancocks and Emily Watson, who is close to gaining hers

THE reputation of Kidderminster's Samurai Judo Club as one of Britain's top judo clubs for producing top female players has been underlined after five of their ladies gained their black belts in recent weeks.

And there another three more on the verge of getting theirs.

Black belts in judo are much rarer than in martial arts, with players only able to claim the grade after defeating at least 10 opponents of similar grade in contest as well as a technical and theory examination.

Andrew Haffner, from the club, said: "This was quite an achievement. Few clubs have more than one female black belt, if they have any at all, so to get five within two

weeks of each other was quite something."

There are no junior black belts, so young players must compete against adults if they want the grade. The five are Charis Hancocks, Sally Moon, Rachel Moon, Gemma Edwards and Millie Hancocks.

Specialises

Sally had an unparalleled year last year, winning the British Junior National Championships, the Heart Of England, the Kent International, the British Schools and the Welsh Open, and was voted Wyre Forest Sports Personality of the Year.

Gemmas, who specialises more in coaching the very young

juniors, recently gave an outstanding performance at the Samurai Women's Open. Millie, an international medalist in Spain as well as Kent International silver medalist, Rachel is British National Champion and was a medalist in most major cadet events last year.

Charis, another British champion, recently took bronze at the Ingelmunster Open in Belgium and won medals at the English, Welsh and Scottish opens.

Emily Watson Charlotte Price, another British Champion, and Sue Hancocks, mother of Millie and Charis and the club's main coach for the youngest age section, are close to gaining their black belts.

KCs hold on in vital dogfight

Earlsdon 11 KCs 13

KCs came out on top by the skin of their teeth in this relegation dogfight. In their last away game, they managed their first win on the road this season.

It was also their first double of the season to open up a 10 point gap over bottom of the table Earlsdon.

KCs started promisingly, driving deep into Earlsdon's 22 from a first minute lineout but an unforced error allowed the home side to clear.

With 10 minutes played Earlsdon's fullback found himself one on one against his opposite number, Nick Martin. He made the tackle but KCs were offside at the resulting ruck and had a let off as Earlsdon's No 10 struck a post with his penalty.

But when KCs were penalised again he made no mistake. An offence by KCs' scrum enable the hosts to double their lead to 6-0.

Five minutes later Kidderminster's forwards turned the tables, winning the ball against the head, and Andy McLellan landed a 30 metre penalty when an Earlsdon's prop offended at the retaken set piece.

Stopped

A strong burst by Jake Evetts almost put in skipper John Mounter at the left corner. He was not quite able to make the line and Earlsdon should have cleared the danger but Martin pounced for an opportunistic touch-down. McLellan's fine conversion put KCs ahead 10-6.

Two minutes into the second half KCs won a penalty and McLellan found a good touch on Earlsdon's 22. From the lineout KCs drove almost to the tryline and when they were stopped, scrumhalf Mark James fed McLellan who dropped a goal to make it 13-6. An Earlsdon lineout in Kidder's 22 gave the hosts a good attacking platform but Evetts' try-saving prevented a score.

The tide seemed to turn in Kidder's favour when the hosts' No 7 was red carded for a late tackle on McLellan. But the 14 men raised their game and ran in an unconverted try to reduce the deficit to 13-11. The Coventry side appeared to have won the game when they crossed again but the touch judge flagged for a foot in touch.

KCs survived a final 10 minutes of frenetic rugby to clinch a vital win and now have two home games left.

Joy as league survival sealed

STOURPORT Ladies 1st XI concluded their Midland Division 1 with a 6-2 victory over their hosts Burton.

And the ladies 2nd XI are in the Midland Feeder West league for another season after beating Warwick University at The Kingsway. They needed a win to stay up and were 3-1 up at the break and finished the match 5-2 victors.

Goal scorers were Pippa Lewis, Lucy Mattocks, who was the Wyre Forest side's player of the match, Georgi Burns, Hayley Ryan, and Louise Marshall.

The 3rd XI lost their final match 40 in the Worcestershire 1st Division to third placed Redditch 1st XI.

The 4ths and the 5ths still have one more fixture to play in their leagues. Both are rescheduled matches with

the 4ths travelling to Bournville and the 5ths entertaining Worcester 4ths at The Kingsway.

Three places separate the 4ths and Bournville 2nds in the Worcestershire 2nd Division and Bournville took the points with a 3-2 victory when they played this weekend.

Unlucky

Stourport were always playing catch up in this competitive match, and it was no surprise that the home side's player of the match was keeper Rachel Claire.

Despite this they managed to score through captain Teri Baron to make the half time score 2-1 to Bournville.

Stourport were unlucky not to pull level just after the break. Bournville were undeterred by this early pres-

sure and stepped up the pace and added to the home side's misery with a third goal. At the final whistle Caroline Wilson scored Stourport's second.

Stourport ladies 5th XI and Worcester 4th XI drew 0-0 to keep the teams separated by two points in the Worcestershire 3rd Division.

Both teams initially fielded under strength sides. Worcester possibly creating the better chances, but the visitors caused panic in the keeperless Worcester defence whenever they forced a corner. The second half saw Stourport at full strength and the hosts' efforts were not good enough to breach their defence, where keeper Lily Harrison Perkins was her team's player of the match. Not that the visitors made any impression on the home defence.



Stourport Ladies 4th XI back row, from left: Renata Kirszniok, Sue Totney, Rachel Clare, Millie Baker, Gemma Robinson, Chris Corcoran, and Julia Hopkins. Front row, from left: Josie Lewis, Indi Wilding, Teri Baron, Karen McIntyre and Caroline Wilson

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